

Huskers Illustrated

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Volume 21, No. 15

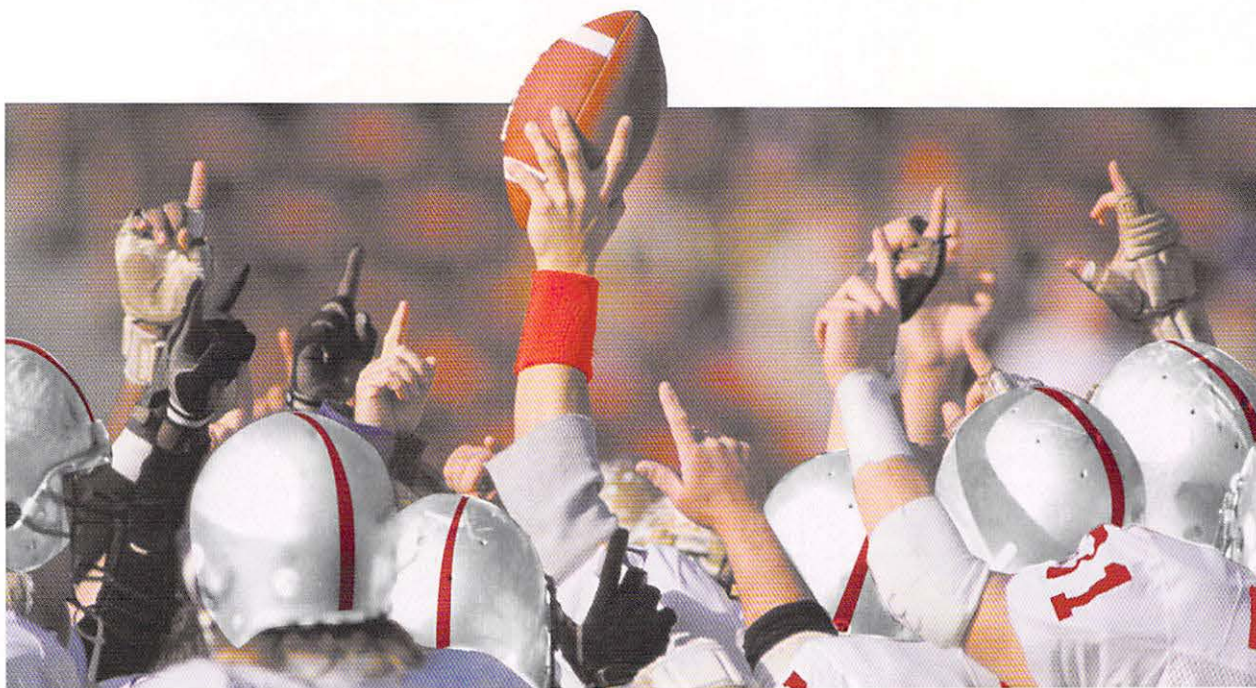
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Another One For The Ages

Freshman plays starring role in latest addition to highlight film



Brian Hill

GAME 9. A true freshman makes a great play to help keep Nebraska unbeaten.

Who can forget Nov. 8, 1997, when split end Matt Davison's diving catch of a deflection in the end zone tied the game and kept a perfect season alive.

The circumstances weren't quite the same this time around, but it was the ninth game, it was a first-year freshman split end, and it was certainly a play that will occupy a special place in Husker football history.

It was fitting that this one came against Oklahoma in the latest chapter of one of college football's greatest rivalries.

Thunder Collins took the handoff from Eric Crouch on what appeared to be the same play he had broken earlier for 39 yards. Instead, Collins flipped the football to Mike Stuntz on a reverse. The first collegiate pass for Stuntz, a quarterback recruit, settled in the arms of Crouch, who had worked his way behind the Sooner defense. The play covered 63 yards, 3 yards more than Crouch's previous touchdown reception on a screen pass from Bobby Newcombe against California in 1999.

Coach Frank Solich's call, one play after a facemask penalty on a third-and-2 had given Nebraska a crucial first down, caught Oklahoma's vaunted defense by surprise.

"We read it as a reverse," said Sooner defensive end Jimmy Wilkerson. "We weren't expecting a play like that. We weren't prepared for it. We didn't see it on film. There was really nothing we

could do about that."

The Huskers, already leading 13-10, might well have held on without the clinching touchdown that came with 6:17 remaining, but it added another great moment to this classic showdown of the teams ranked 1 and 2 in the Bowl Championship Series.

In knocking off the defending national champion, the Huskers ended the nation's longest winning streak at 20 games and pushed their own nation's longest home winning streak to 20.

Was it a defining moment for Solich, whose team has a 9-0 start for the first time in his four-year career?

Not necessarily, according to senior tackle Dave Volk.

"I don't think it really defines it," Volk said. "I think you're going to find he's going to have a lot more big wins. He's going to win a lot of games because he's an excellent coach. His players love him."

Volk was asked about Solich's post-game speech.

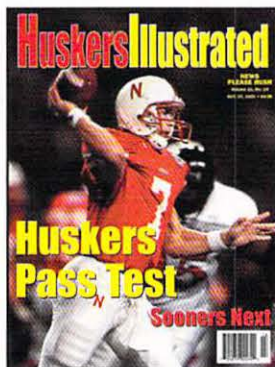
"What did he say? He said it was a great win," Volk said. "Not really too much, just making sure we keep our focus."

Volk was one of several Huskers to play through an injury. You can read more about his painful effort in contributing editor Mike Babcock's "Final Word."

Our feature story this week is on another of the injured players who gutted it out against Oklahoma — senior Tracey Wistrom. Receivers coach Ron Brown explains how the tight end is able to get open so often.

This week's player profile subject is Barrett Ruud, a member of Stuntz's 2001 recruiting class who has made a significant contribution at middle linebacker.

Stuntz, whose statistical summary included one rushing attempt for 25 yards in seven games, now has two touches. And the second one will be remembered for a long, long time. ■



ON THE COVER

Nebraska quarterback Eric Crouch hauls in a reverse pass from split end Mike Stuntz in the fourth quarter. Photo by Scott Bruhn

VOLUME 21, NUMBER 15

Huskers Illustrated

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NATIONAL DISTRIBUTOR
G Associates Inc.

Huskers Illustrated (ISSN 0279-3474) is published monthly January through May and August, bi-monthly June/July and weekly September through mid-December except open dates. Single issue cost \$3.95 (yearbook \$7.95); subscription rate for one year (18 issues) is \$46.95. First Class postage is available for an additional charge of \$18.00 per year. Foreign postage \$34.00.

Huskers Illustrated is published by Landmark Publications, Inc., 601 Taylorsville Road, Shelbyville, Ky., 40065, (502) 633-4334. Periodicals postage paid at Omaha, Neb., and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *Huskers Illustrated*, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb. 68501-3222.

Address all editorial-related correspondence to *Huskers Illustrated*, 3210 NW 3rd St., Lincoln, Neb. 68521.

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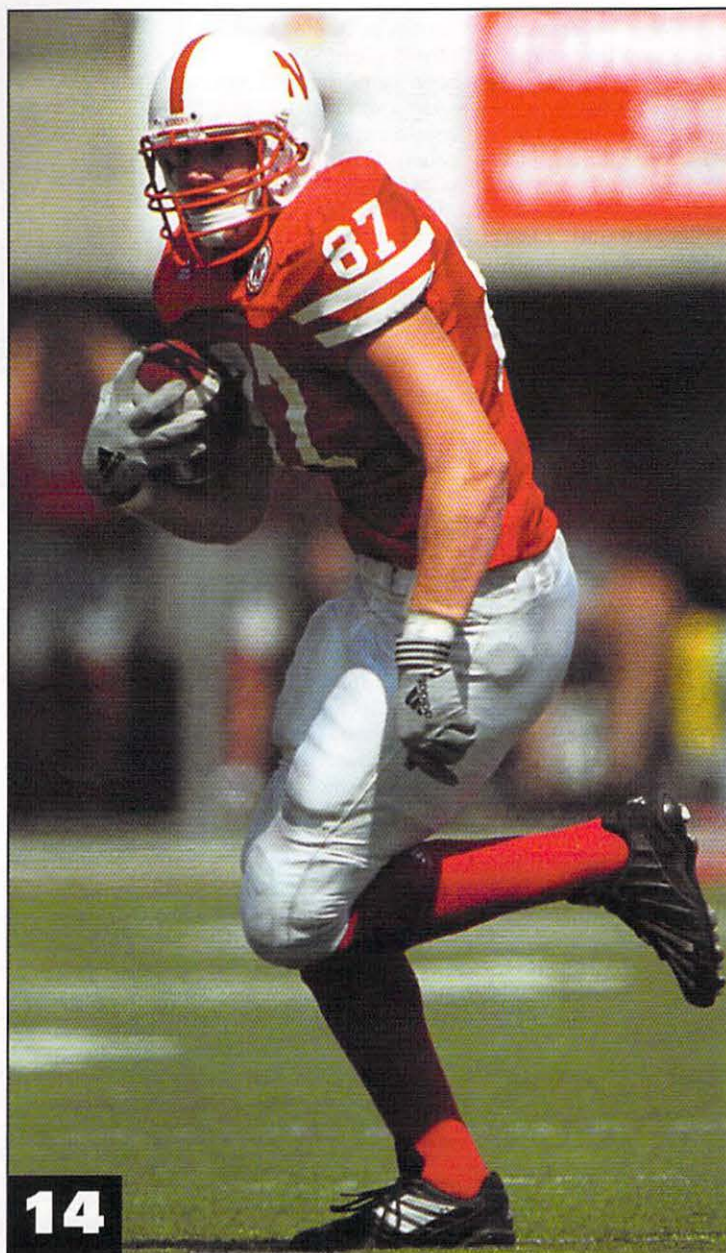
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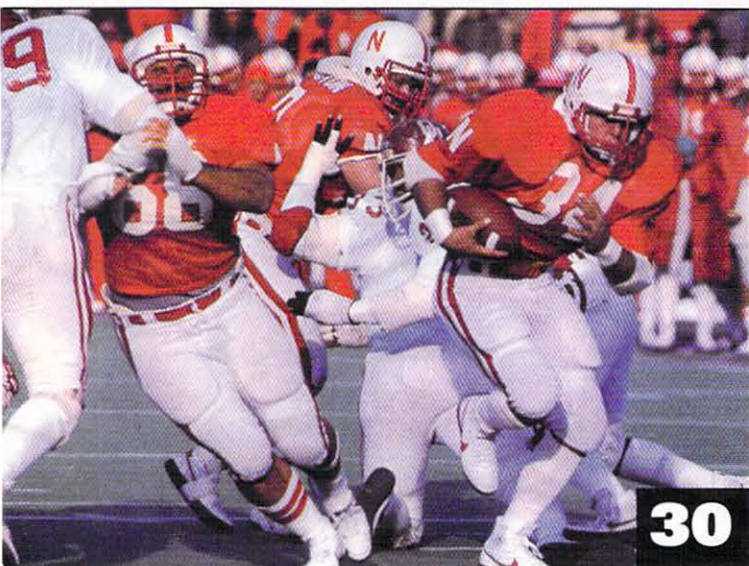
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Receivers coach Ron Brown says Nebraska senior tight end Tracey Wistrom does a good sales job when he runs his routes. *By Mike Babcock*

NEXT ISSUE

The review of the Kansas game will be mailed Nov. 5.



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Biding Their Time

Marques Simmons has spent most of his practice time this fall on the scout team. That's the way it is for most freshmen. They're expected to provide the top units with a good look.

Occasionally, however, he has taken a few snaps with the top units.

"Lately, I've been bringing him up some practices to run our stuff so I get a chance to see him a little bit there," running backs coach Dave Gillespie said early in the conference season.

Gillespie likes what he's seen of the young I-back. Simmons "does a nice job," he said.

Such an impression is reinforced by the defensive coaches, who have an opportunity to watch Simmons on the scout team offense. Nearly every day after practice "there's some conversation about guys giving good 'pictures' or not giving good 'pictures' on both sides of the ball," said Gillespie.

Giving a good "picture" is synonymous with giving a good effort, working hard, taking scout-team responsibilities seriously, which Simmons apparently has done. The defensive coaches "say he's doing a great job down there," Gillespie said. "So I've been really pleased with him."

Gillespie was quick to add that he didn't want to be too pleased, however.

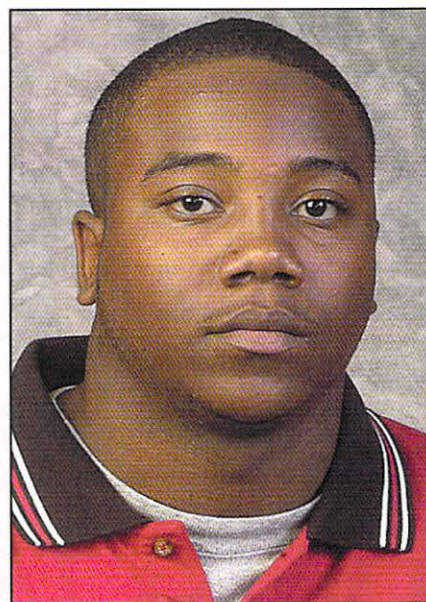
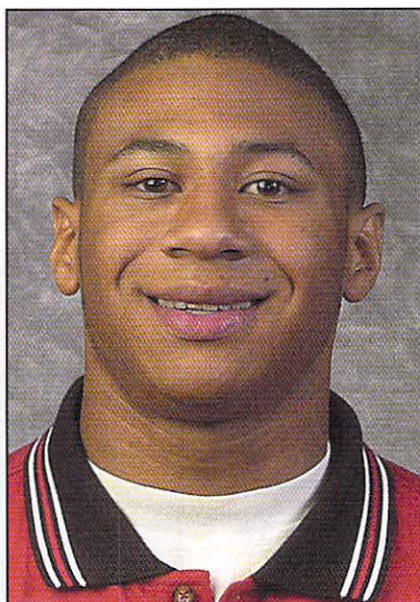
He doesn't expect the defensive coaches to say, "Geez, Marques ripped us today." That "doesn't always leave you with a good feeling when your defense is getting ripped," he said.

That Simmons and Cory Ross, another scholarship I-back recruit, were relegated to the scout team should be no surprise. Nebraska is five-deep at I-back, and "we were fortunate not to get guys ahead of them hurt. So it didn't make much sense, probably, to use them at this point," said Gillespie.

Simmons and Ross also got looks as kick returners during two-a-day practices. Ross returned 12 kicks for touchdowns as a high school senior in Denver, six kickoffs and six punts.

But Josh Davis has established himself as an excellent kickoff returner, while DeJuan Groce, Keyuo Craver and Ben Cornelsen have combined to handle the punt returns.

As a result, Simmons and Ross are biding their time this fall, Ross while recovering from shoulder surgery. The shoulder had been bothering him "for quite some time and just got progressively worse," Gillespie said. "So he



I-backs Marques Simmons (left) and Cory Ross are redshirting this season.

went ahead and had it operated on."

Ross is expected to be able to participate in spring practice. He and Simmons will have their work cut out, given the fact that the Cornhuskers won't lose any of their I-backs. The top two, Dahrnan Diedrick and Thunder Collins, are juniors. Davis, DeAntae Grixby and Robin Miller are sophomores.

Clearly, there's no sense of urgency for Simmons, who "probably needs to get a little bigger and stronger," according to Gillespie. "It sure wouldn't hurt him," Gillespie said.

Simmons is 5-foot-9 and weighs about 190 pounds right now.

His greatest asset is his speed. He's the fastest of Nebraska's I-backs. Davis "has run some good 40 times, but Marques has had some 100-meter times that have been pretty fast," said Gillespie.

Simmons' personal best in the 100 meters is 10.26 seconds.

"So that's certainly one of his strengths," Gillespie said.

Speed alone won't get the job done, however. Nebraska expects its I-backs to be physical and capable of running inside the tackles, an area in which Collins have improved this fall.

Whether or not Simmons can do that, "we'll see," said Gillespie. "That's why I say I think if he gets a little bigger, stronger, (with) a little more confidence in what he's doing, he could do that."

"Not every back in the NFL that you look at is necessarily 230, 240 pounds."

Some freshmen, particularly scholarship recruits, get discouraged playing on the scout team, but that doesn't seem to be the case with Simmons, according to Gillespie. "He really does have a good attitude. I think he takes a lot of pride in what he does down there," Gillespie said.

"I've seen nothing but positive things from him."

Simmons' attitude was shaped by a high school career in which he posted impressive numbers despite the frustration of losing records. His North High team was 0-9 when he was a senior.

Even so, he rushed for 1,788 yards and 15 touchdowns.

Taking a few snaps with the top units from time to time won't make him a polished player going into the spring. But "he needs to become a little more proficient in executing our offense, knowing our plays, running plays with confidence so that he knows what he's doing," said Gillespie.

"I don't now if they'll (freshmen) learn enough. But I think it keeps them at least a little bit current, a little bit fresh so when spring comes it's not total shock to them mentally — although we'll probably change our whole offense by the time spring gets here. That really screws them up."

He laughed as he said that. He was just joking. ■

VIOLENT COLLISIONS

As football players get bigger and faster, their collisions become more violent. "It's amazing the body can take the punishment it takes," said Milt Tenopir, Nebraska's veteran offensive line coach.

"Of course, the gear is more protective than it used to be, too."

If players now wore the helmets and pads of another era, "with the strength and the size of kids, you'd get a concussion every time you had a block," Tenopir said. "They're equipped well."

"And if you really look at an offensive lineman, there's very little head-to-head (collisions). Sometimes kids will follow through, but so much of it is technique and strength. You don't see very often a lineman butting heads as much as you do lifting people."

Even so, the violence isn't lost on him. Watching from the pressbox, which he does during games, it's not as apparent. "But when I look at the tape the next morning, I'm amazed," he said.

"This game was 60 minutes of that? And it didn't matter who was in the game; there was a tremendous amount of banging going on. There is tremendous force."

REALLY BIG MAN ON CAMPUS

Even though Toniou Fonoti, Nebraska's junior offensive guard, weighs 20 to 25 pounds more than the 340 at which he is listed, Tenopir, his position coach, isn't overly concerned.

Fonoti doesn't have any "blubbery fat," said Tenopir.

"He's just a big person, three feet across the shoulders. He's thick everywhere. He's got big arms, a big neck, big chest. He's just big. His legs are like pool table legs, big old thick legs."

To see Fonoti walking in the hallway just off the tunnel leading to the South Stadium locker room is like watching a barge scrape against the sides of a narrow canal.

PERFECT PRO

Receivers coach Ron Brown thinks senior tight end Tracey Wistrom can follow his brother Grant into the NFL. Tracey has yet to reach his potential as a player, said Brown, and "if he wants to play at the next level, you'd like to think this young man could play a lot of years."

"It would be great to see Tracey, if he wants to play pro football, play for the next dozen years, just because I think he's the right kind of person. He brings a great love for the game, an enthusiasm just like his brother. He's coachable. He's a great role model. He would set an example."

"He would be a team leader. He'd be great not only for a team but for an entire city."

As was the case with Grant, Tracey likely will get bigger. "I think he still has room to grow and we're probably going to see his size really grow in the next few years," said Brown. Grant, who was small for a rush end in college, "is a big man right now. And I think Tracey is just going to keep getting larger and larger, and if he continues (with) the quickness he has, he'll be very special." ■

QUICK HITS

What's Happening In Nebraska Athletics?

HONOREES

Bill Shepard and Glen Abbott, who have had a combined 82 years of service to the University of Nebraska, were honored in a ceremony prior to the Nebraska-Texas Tech football game.

Abbott is in his 32nd year at Nebraska, the last 24 as equipment manager for the football team. Shepard retired in May after becoming the university's first 50-year employee. Shepard was first employed by the university in 1951. He came the head grounds keeper in 1960.



Meghan Anderson

ALL-TIME LEADER

Senior midfielder Meghan Anderson became the Huskers' all-time leading scorer with a goal, as the fifth-ranked Nebraska soccer team defeated Oklahoma 2-0 Oct. 21 at the OU Soccer Complex.

Anderson weaved through traffic in the top of the penalty area and fired Nebraska's first goal into the top right corner of the net at 3:43. The goal pushed her career total to 128 points, moving her ahead of Lindsay Eddleman (127 points) to the top of NU's all-time scoring chart.

"It's nice to sit atop some good company," Anderson said. "We all know that it will be shattered pretty soon, but it's an honor. I'm sitting among some of the top forwards to ever play here."

LOW EXPECTATIONS

The Nebraska men's basketball team was picked to finish last in the Big 12 in a poll of conference coaches, while the Husker women's team was picked to finish eighth.

The women's team did earn individual pre-season honors from the coaches, however. Katie Robinette, a 6-foot-2 forward, was picked as the Big 12 "Freshman of the Year," and Keasha Cannon, a 5-10 guard, was selected as the conference "Newcomer of the Year."

Robinette was a prep All-American at South Sioux City, Neb., High School.

Cannon was a two-time junior college All-American.

Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma State and Oklahoma were the top teams in the men's poll, while Oklahoma, Texas Tech, Iowa State and Colorado were the top teams in the women's poll.

WAITING FOR DREVO

Andrew Drevo is among the newcomers on the Nebraska men's basketball team. But the 6-foot-8, 250-pound forward from Lincoln will have to sit out a season after transferring from Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa. Cornhusker Coach Barry Collier would play him right away if he could.

"Actually, I wish he did not have to redshirt," Collier said. A year from now, "I think he can help our team with his size and strength and combination of ability."

BRIAN'S BULKED UP

Cornhusker Sophomore Brian Conklin is "one of the poster children for Husker Power," according to Collier. Conklin has put on 20 pounds since last season, and 39 pounds since arriving at Nebraska.

The added weight combined with the experience of playing will serve him well. Also, "I think Brian has a good sense of what our team needs now," said Collier. "He needs to be more vocal and more assertive. But I think he has taken a big step in that direction."

APPROPRIATE SCHEDULE

Even though the Nebraska men's non-conference schedule doesn't include many big-name opponents, Collier is comfortable with it. "I like who we're playing. We need to play these teams that are on our schedule for a number of reasons," he said. "We need to play in games that don't ask us to crisscross the country, that we play in an environment where we have the best chance of success."

"Obviously, that's at home for everybody in college basketball."

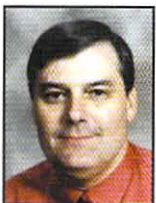
The Cornhuskers play eight of 11 non-conference opponents at the Devaney Sports Center, and a ninth, Creighton, in Omaha. Their only out-of-state non-conference games are at Minnesota and at Pacific a week apart in late December. Their first six games are at home.

"I like our schedule," Collier said. "That's who we need to play right now."

Nebraska will be playing at Minnesota for the second season in a row. ■

Taking Care Of Business

Husker linebacker Burrow makes the most of his opportunities on and off the field



Mike BABCOCK

TOO MUCH ATTENTION makes Jamie Burrow uncomfortable. If Nebraska's senior middle linebacker were well known, "I don't think I'd like to go out," he said. "That's not my style."

Burrow is readily recognizable on the football field in his No. 48 jersey. But on Sunday afternoons in the Hollywood Video store at 27th and Cornhusker

Highway, he's relatively anonymous.

"There are a couple of people that know who I am there, but not too many," he said.

Burrow worked at the video rental store in the evenings during the summer — after working at Pegler Sysco in the mornings — and he still works an occasional Sunday afternoon shift. His Cornhusker teammates think it's "hilarious," he said. "It's a little quirk."

"But that's fine with me. I still get free rentals."

He doesn't have cable television at his apartment, and he likes to watch movies.

Working at a video store, and trying to be knowledgeable about current releases so he can help customers, "I've watched a lot of bad movies in the last year," he said.

Bad, of course, is a relative term. He likes "slapstick, stupid humor."

He has a copy of "The Big Lebowski" and used to have a copy of "Air Force One," but lost it. He can't find his copy of "Happy Gilmore," either.

That's a "great movie," he said.

Despite his interest in movies, Burrow probably isn't a threat to Roger Ebert or Gene Shalit. He's considering a career in pharmaceutical sales when he's finished playing football. He has a degree in biological sciences and an outgoing personality, despite shying away from attention.

"I think I interact pretty well with people, so I think I could do that," he said.

His people skills have been apparent this season. Even though freshman Barrett Ruud plays the same position, he has readily helped Ruud make the transition from high school to college.

And he has done so with the same laid-back good humor that often made him a target of older teammates when he was younger. Jay Foreman, for example, started calling him "Rock" because, Foreman claimed, the name "Jamie" wasn't appropriate for a middle linebacker.

Defensive coordinator Craig Bohl still calls him "Rock."

Bohl always credits Carlos Polk with giving Burrow the nickname, however. "I've set him straight a couple of

times," said Burrow. "Carlos might have had some input. But Jay was the one."

Regardless of the source, "it's part of an initiation into the team," Burrow said. "You've got to prod the younger guys a little, just mess around with them, joke with them, kid around."

"Everyone takes that. Some guys take it a little longer. I'm pretty laid back, so I think I still take quite a bit. But that's fine. I like to keep everyone out there a little light-hearted."

That doesn't mean he lacks focus or commitment. Far from it. He has taken care of business on and off the field during his time at Nebraska. He has made the most of opportunities in both.

Burrow, who received his bachelor's degree in August, was a four-time member of the Big 12 commissioner's honor roll and a two-time, first-team academic all-conference honoree. He's an undeclared graduate student now, taking the required nine credit hours, six of which he must pass.

"It's hard to get motivated for a class you don't need," he said. "I'll do it. I'll pass all nine of my hours. But it is hard at times. When you're trying to get your degree, there's a point to it. Now the only thing I'm doing is trying to stay eligible, and that has never been a big concern for me."

August graduates were the last to enroll for fall-semester classes, so his choices were limited. Insufficient enrollment forced cancellation of a sales management class he planned to take, and art classes in which he was interested were full. As a result, "I'm in pretty easy classes," he said.

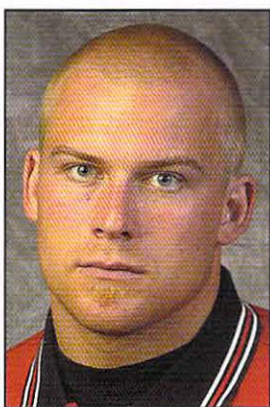
One is bowling. Another has to do with reducing stress and tension.

Being a student-athlete at the major college level has its share of stress and tension, which is why Burrow is considering taking off a semester when he's finished playing. Or he might take a couple of graduate-level classes and "actually be a regular student," he said.

On the other hand, he might get bored with too much free time. After all, he worked those two jobs during the summer, and he's still working at Hollywood Video now.

You might find him there on a Sunday afternoon, recommending "Rounders" or "The Wedding Singer" or "Being John Malkovich," though not too many people like that movie. He does it not only because he enjoys it but also because "I always need more money than what I have," he said.

In that sense, he's like any other college student. ■



Middle linebacker Jamie Burrow was NU's leading tackler through 8 games.

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On The Rebound

Husker women looking to bounce back from disappointing season



Terry DOUGLASS

TO SAY THAT Nebraska women's basketball Coach Paul Sanderford is motivated might just be the understatement of the year.

Now in his 20th season as a head coach — his fifth with the Cornhuskers — Sanderford's resume includes 439 victories, 15 NCAA Tournament appearances, three Final Four appearances and one NCAA Tournament championship game.

However, last season was one of the most difficult campaigns of Sanderford's career as his youthful and injury-riddled Nebraska squad finished 12-18 and failed to qualify for the NCAA Tournament for the first time since he took over the program in 1997.

"I've never experienced anything quite like what I went through last year, so it's new for me," Sanderford said. "I do know that I've been as motivated as I've ever been in my life to try to do everything I possibly can to make this program go."

While admitting that he's an optimist, Sanderford said he's excited about the prospects of turning things around this season. The Huskers, who have just one senior on their roster, return four starters and 11 letter-winners from last year's team. Nebraska also has added three talented recruits in two-time Nebraska high school player of the year Katie Robinette, junior college All-American Keasha Cannon and Associated Press all-stater Jina Johansen.

Now more than at any time during his run at Nebraska, Sanderford said he has the kind of players that he needs to fit his system.

"I feel what I have to give the kids is the confidence in our system," Sanderford said. "We have to play the way I want to play. I came here four years ago and I said, 'we're going to shoot 20 threes, we're going to get the ball up and down the floor and we're going to pressure people.' These are my players. Hopefully, we can do that now."

"You know, a good seat at Devaney (Sports Center) this year is going to be in the end zone because you won't get a sore neck from watching people go up and down the floor. We want to play fast."

One big reason for Sanderford's optimism is that he was able to win last spring's recruiting battle with Big 12 rival Iowa State for Robinette, who is regarded as the top recruit in NU women's basketball history and was selected as the Big 12 preseason freshman of the year. The 6-foot-2 forward scored 1,944 points, had 897 rebounds, 344 steals and 309 assists during her career at South Sioux City High School.

Sanderford said Robinette is simply special.

"I think she's going to be an impact player. It's going to be hard to keep her off the floor," Sanderford said. "I think she's talented as a lot of top recruits that we've had. She's going to make me a lot better coach."

Topping the list of returning players expected to contribute big minutes this season is leading returning scorer,

Shannon Howell. The sophomore from Los Angeles averaged 8.8 points and a team-best 3.1 assists last season, while playing the point guard position.

Howell, who Sanderford calls one of his best defensive players, should get an opportunity to score even more this season, as she's expected to move to shooting guard. Sanderford believes the switch will be possible with the addition of Cannon, a 5-10 junior who averaged more than 20 points and eight assists during her career at Penn Valley (Mo.) Community College and was named the Big 12 preseason newcomer of the year.

Johansen, a 5-8 freshman, is also a talented point guard with a knack for getting the ball in a teammate's hands at just the right time for easy baskets. The Dannebrog native finished sixth in Nebraska high school history with 2,064 career assists, while averaging 23.9 points, 8.5 assists and five rebounds per game at Centura High School.

There appears to be plenty of depth in the backcourt as juniors Shahidrah Roberts and Margaret Richards and sophomore KC Cowgill all return. Roberts was NU's second-leading scorer in Big 12 play last season, averaging 8.1 points and 3.8 rebounds in league games. Richards struggled with consistency while averaging 5.3 points.

Cowgill missed 12 games during the 2000-01 season with a stress reaction in her left foot — an injury that Sanderford said hurt the Huskers. The 5-8 sharpshooter from Grand Island Central Catholic averaged 10.1 points and four rebounds while sinking a team-best 13 three-pointers in Nebraska's first eight games.

Nebraska returns several players who will compete for time at the forward positions. That group includes 6-foot junior Candice Blackbird, 6-2 junior Stephanie Jones (6.4 ppg, 4.5 rpg), 6-2 junior Paige Sutton (3.2 ppg, 2.7 rpg) and 6-2 sophomore Greichaly Cepero (6.3 ppg, 5.3 rpg), who will again join the team after the Husker volleyball team is finished making its national title run in December.

At center, Sanderford will look to senior Amanda Cleveland and much-improved 6-4 sophomore Katie Morse. The 6-4 Cleveland is expected to play her first significant minutes since 1997 after missing her sophomore and junior seasons while recovering from a blood disorder that causes extreme fatigue.

Sanderford said he's been impressed with the work ethic of his team so far. Even though turning things around in the loaded Big 12 Conference won't be easy, Sanderford said the team's goals remain the same: A top-4 finish in the conference and a NCAA Tournament berth.

"What I see from our basketball team is a sense of urgency," Sanderford said. "I didn't see that sense of urgency last year. I think people were waiting for something to happen. I think now, our attitude is more that we're going to make something happen." ■



Paul Sanderford is in his fifth season at Nebraska.

Terry Douglass is the sports editor of the Grand Island Independent. He can be reached at tdbbdouglass@netzero.net.

A Lot To Prove

Sophomore forward Conklin says young Huskers will surprise people



Curt McKEEVER

BARRY COLLIER ISN'T big into the history of the Nebraska men's basketball program. After all, the Cornhuskers' second-year coach is pretty well preoccupied trying to build for the future.

But after discovering that his Cornhuskers had been picked by Big 12 coaches to finish last in the conference this season, Collier might have felt an urge to pass this fact along to his team:

The last time the Huskers were selected to finish at the bottom of a conference race, 11 years ago, they produced a school-record, 26-win season.

No one is expecting history to repeat itself. Nebraska's situation is a lot different now.

But the coaches' preseason projection of the Huskers should serve them well.

"I know that people don't think we're going to have what it takes, but I think we're going to surprise people," said sophomore forward Brian Conklin. "I'm not going to make any predictions where we're going to finish, but I can guarantee you that these guys are going to work hard and tell you that we are jelling very well together — a lot better than last year's team."

"I like what I see. Guys are working hard every day, and they're really willing to put in extra time, which is something that's been lacking in past years."

Still, people see where Conklin is in his career, and it makes many think this will be an out-of-ordinary year for Nebraska.

Just one year removed from his rookie season, Conklin has no choice but to carry himself like a veteran.

The 6-11 sophomore forward has the second-most starting experience and has played in more games than anyone other than fifth-year senior guard Cary Cochran.

"It's definitely different," Conklin said. "I feel like I understand what's going on, and I feel it's my duty to let these younger guys know what it is that they're going to be doing this year."

The young guys Conklin is referring to will get some early chances because the Huskers are missing five of their top six scorers, their top three rebounders and three of their top four assist men from last year's team that finished 14-16 and seventh in the Big 12.

Among them: Cookie Belcher, NU's all-time steals leader, and center Kimani Ffriend, a second-team all-conference pick as a junior and good enough to be signed in the preseason earlier this month by the Miami Heat.

Collier, though, has added five scholarship players and three walk-ons to mold into a team-oriented approach that worked for him at Butler.

Yes, the Huskers may be less athletic. But his thinking is they'll make up for it with some smarter play and an all-for-one attitude.

Collier will likely have to build around Cochran, who is one of the most-dangerous three-point threats in the league. Just 24 shy of Eric Piatkowski's career record of 202, Cochran was second in the Big 12 and fourth nationally last season in three-point percentage (47.3).

"We do a thing in the four-man (preseason) workouts where kids will shoot 50 three-pointers, and he regularly makes 40-plus," Collier said. "We're just not going to have very many guys in the league able to shoot that well, so that skill is going to play off other people's ability to penetrate and get him the basketball."

Collier smiled when he suggested Nebraska ought to run a swinging gate for Cochran. But in all seriousness, one should expect to see a lot more picks than clearouts. Collier's philosophy is predicated on hustling team play.

"It's just an exciting time right now," Conklin said. "Everything's so fresh. We've got the new guys in, and the old guys have new attitudes, it seems."

Corey Simms, a 6-5 freshman guard from St. Louis, probably was the most-heralded of Collier's newest recruits. But in early practices, it was other newcomers who stood out.

Jake Muhlheisen, a 6-4 guard from Lincoln Southeast, Dan Heimos, a 6-11 center from Waterloo, Ill., and Brennon Clemmons, a 6-2 point guard who transferred from Olney Central (Ill.) Community College, all were getting regular time in the top rotations.

Heimos benefitted from a strong summer workout program in which he added about 20 pounds, then impressed Collier with some definitive moves in the post.

"There's more there for us to uncover early on than maybe we thought," Collier admitted.

The same could be said for the majority of Nebraska's new players.

"I think these young guys will push our older bunch and have the opportunity to play and be significant contributors. I see an ability of these guys to pick up things quicker," Collier added. "There's maybe more basketball experience, where they've been playing since the sixth grade, or even younger. Not everyone had that last year."

It's far too early to tell how that will figure in with where Nebraska finishes in the Big 12. But just maybe Collier knows something he didn't let his colleagues in on when they were filling out their preseason ballots.

"It's a total different team, in all aspects," Cochran said. "You look down on the roster, and there's not too many guys that have played here before. That isn't always a bad thing, because now we have a lot of guys who haven't gone through what some of us have gone through in the past. It's kind of refreshing in that sense." ■



Barry Collier is starting his second season at Nebraska.

Curt McKeever is a sportswriter, covering the University of Nebraska for the Lincoln Journal Star. In addition to reporting on football he is the primary beat writer for the men's basketball and baseball teams.

Brotherly Advice

Husker freshman Ruud tries to be fan, coach for younger brother

Barrett Ruud has tried to maintain a low profile when he has had all-too-rare opportunities to watch his brother Bo play football for Lincoln Southeast High School. He has sat off to the side in the stands at Seacrest Field, with a group of friends, so as not to attract too much attention.

A year ago, he was playing for Southeast, too, helping to lead the Knights to the state Class A championship as a linebacker and running back. Watching them is odd, "definitely different," he said. "I hadn't watched Southeast play in about five years. I was always on the sideline."

Now he's in the stands, and when he's recognized, he's likely to draw a small crowd of well-wishers and those who are curious about his experiences playing middle linebacker at Nebraska.

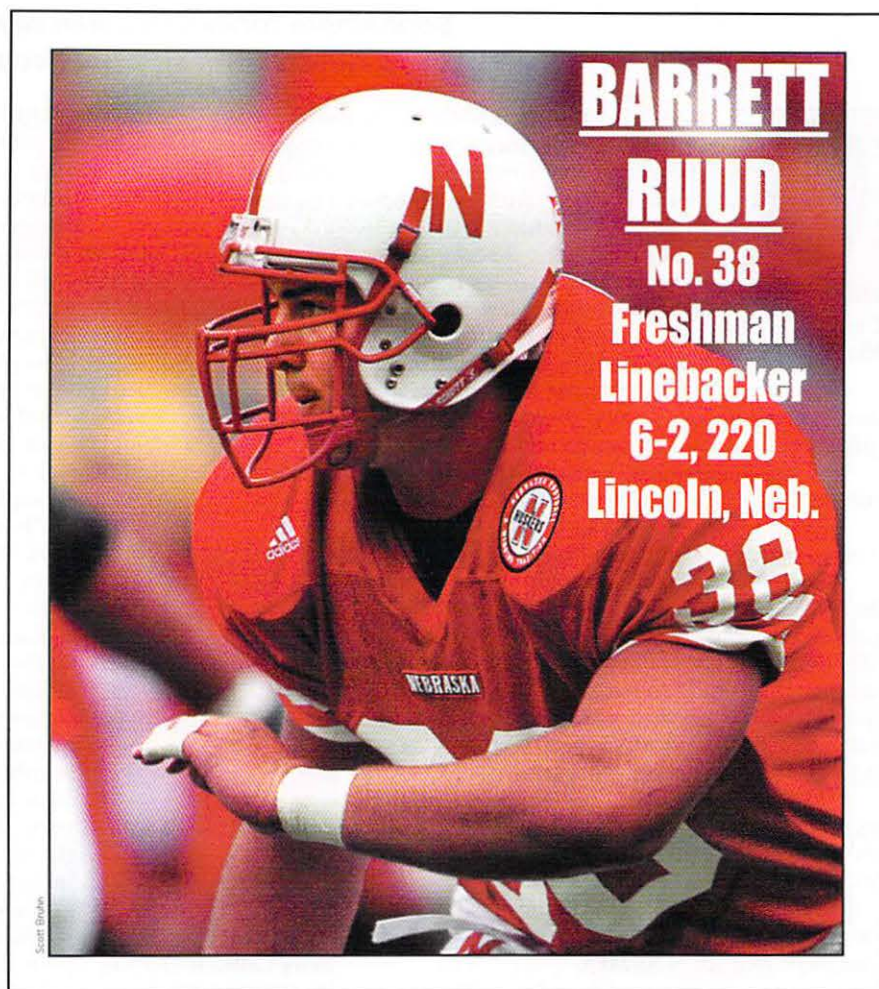
Watching his brother can be difficult, though "it's usually not too bad," he said.

Barrett doesn't mind chatting with former classmates and teachers. But he also is interested in watching brother Bo, with a critical eye. Bo has already made an oral commitment to accept a football scholarship from the Cornhuskers, even though he won't graduate for another year.

"I always watch what he does wrong, to try to prepare him to come down here," said Barrett. "I try to tell him what I think Coach (Craig) Bohl or somebody would say watching me play."

Bohl is Nebraska's defensive coordinator and coaches the linebackers, of course. And Bo will probably play strongside linebacker for the Cornhuskers, Barrett said.

"That would be my guess, unless



he gets bigger. Then he might play rush end."

In either case, a little brotherly advice is in order. "So I kind of try to be a fan and a coach at the same time when I watch him. It's hard because when you watch your brother play, you always hope he does well. But also you've got to help him get better at the same time," said Barrett.

The two are close, he said, only a year and a half apart in age.

That Bo has already settled on Nebraska doesn't surprise him, Barrett said. "He was probably more focused on trying to get to Nebraska than I was. I kind of just wanted to see what was around. But I knew as soon as they started getting interested in him he would probably want to come here."

Both are following their father,

Tom, and their great grandfather, Clarence Swanson, as Cornhusker football players. Uncles Bob Martin and John Ruud also were Nebraska football lettermen.

Despite that lineage, there was never any pressure on either of them to play football. In fact, their father encouraged them to compete in other sports, said Barrett, a two-time super-state football player and the Lincoln Journal Star's boys "Prep Athlete of the Year" as a senior.

Tom Ruud was a first-round draft pick of the Buffalo Bills and played five seasons in the NFL. "My dad, being in the pros and stuff, knows that you kind of get beat up in football," Barrett said.

Golf was among the sports his dad suggested. "He wanted me to play high school golf, but I kind of stopped

playing golf a whole lot once I got to the eighth and ninth grade," said Barrett.

His dad didn't discourage him from playing football, however. He served as an assistant coach and defensive coordinator for Barrett's — and then Bo's — midget league football team. There was never any pressure. All his dad told him was, whatever he did, he needed to work hard at it.

Barrett is among four true freshmen playing for Nebraska this season. The others are rover Philip Bland, nose tackle Manaia Brown and quarterback-turned-wide-receiver Mike Stuntz.

There's pressure enough on young players as it is, but Ruud has the added pressure of being from Lincoln, a fact that has drawn even more attention to him — hometown guy makes good.

He downplays it, however. "Maybe there's a little bit more pressure," he said. "But I think most of the pressure I felt was during two-a-days because all my buddies knew I had a chance to play this year, and if I didn't do well in pre-season camp, they would have thought maybe I wasn't as good."

"Once the season began, it was a lot more fun. I know they're out there watching and they're probably going to call me after the game and tell me what I did right and what I did wrong."

He's been as much a part of the college experience as a football player can be, given the time commitments of practices, meetings and lifting. He lives in a dorm with Jake Muhlhausen, a freshman scholarship player from Southeast on Coach Barry Collier's basketball team.

"I wouldn't be surprised if he started for them this year, really," said Ruud.

Being from Lincoln has its advantages, Ruud said, among them proximity to home.

He goes home on Sunday afternoons and settles into his own recliner in front of a television, connected to a satellite dish. Bo is usually in a recliner next to him.

"I don't do too much moving around on Sundays," Barrett said. "About four or five times I'll fall asleep for about 20 minutes. I'll watch more TV and fall asleep again."

He maintains a very low profile then. ■

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NEB

'A Great Actor'



Nebraska senior Tracey Wistrom owns the school records for average yards per reception in a season and for receiving yards by a tight end in a career.

Receivers coach Brown says Husker senior tight end Wistrom does a good sales job on his routes

By Mike Babcock

A year from now, when Tracey Wistrom has begun what Ron Brown thinks could be a lengthy and successful NFL career, Nebraska's receivers will study videotape of Wistrom.

They'll watch how he gets his shoulders positioned properly when blocking, how he uses leverage to his advantage. And

they'll see how he sets up defenders on pass routes.

The Cornhuskers' senior tight end is adept at setting up defenders.

"He's a great actor," said Brown, his position coach. "He's one of the best acting tight ends I've seen in terms of route running. He can really look like he's going all out in one direction and quickly come in

the other direction. It's such a good sales job that everybody's fooled. You can see it on film how good of a sales job it is."

Many receivers will reveal their intention with body English, leaning to the outside if that's where they're going to cut. A good defender will see that and adjust accordingly. But Wistrom will focus straight-ahead or even lean to the inside, then turn to the outside at the last possible moment.

Such ability separates the best receivers from the average ones. And "you can put that on film," Brown said. "You can make a highlight reel of Tracey in one-on-one route running, in terms of how he deceives people, watch him get free. He's a very, very intelligent route runner."

He's also what Brown describes as a great technician, with sure hands and the concentration to catch passes in close quarters, an ability indispensable to a tight end.

In addition to everything else, he's a great finisher. Through the first seven games of this season, he had dropped only one pass during

his Cornhusker career, said Brown. "A lot of guys can make a pretty move to the hoop in basketball but blow the dunk. Tracey doesn't blow dunks."

That's reflected statistically. Wistrom holds school records for average yards per reception in a season and receiving yards by a tight end in a career. He's also within reach of career records for catches and touchdowns by a tight end, and he shares the record for touchdown catches in a game.

Statistics, however, "don't even do him justice," Brown said. "You put him in an offense where we're throwing the ball just a ton of times, and I'll tell you what . . ."

Brown didn't finish the sentence, but it didn't need finishing. The implication was sufficient. Wistrom is an exceptional tight end, ranking among the best in Cornhusker history.

Wistrom couldn't have named many on that list when he followed his brother Grant to Nebraska from Webb City, Mo. He had heard of Junior Miller, from professional foot-

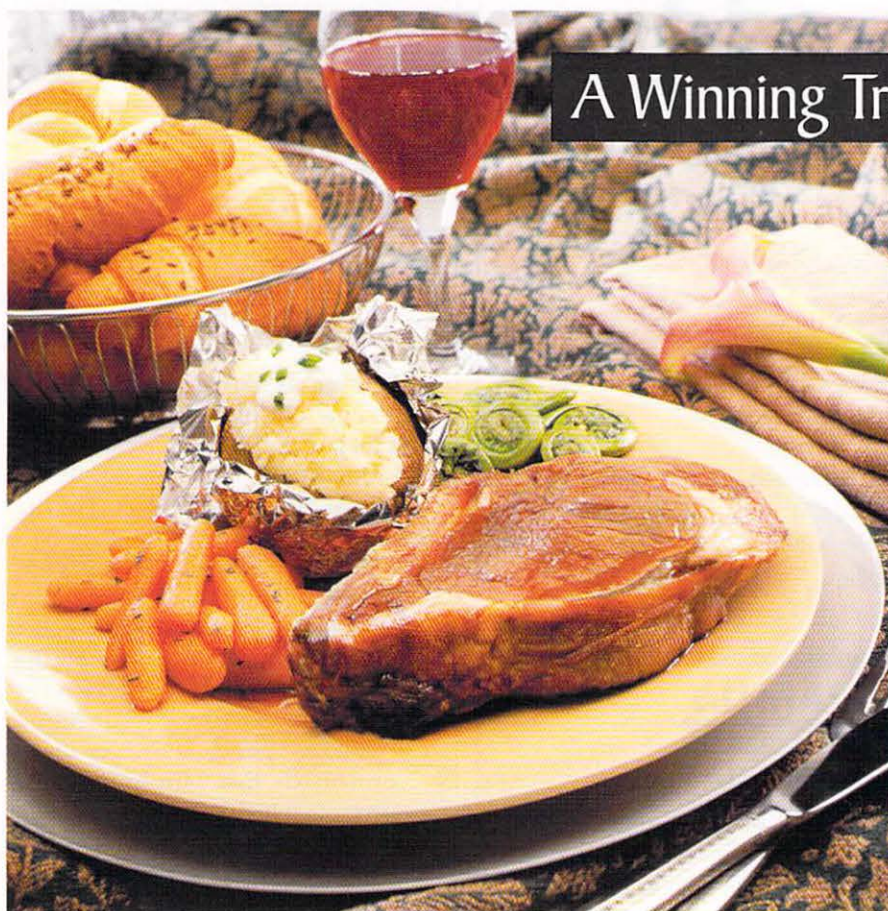
ball. But that was about it.

Johnny Mitchell? "I really don't know if I would have heard of him," said Wistrom.

He's heard of Mitchell now, as well as the late Jerry List, the starting tight end on the Cornhuskers' 1970 and 1971 national championship teams. List's son, Gregg, was a Nebraska teammate. But Wistrom would still have trouble naming other tight ends unless he's heard their names here.

Brown regularly talks about tight ends that have preceded Wistrom at Nebraska. He uses them as examples, models for shaping skills. He'll show videotape of Matt Shaw, for example, to illustrate what he calls the "Shaw Factor." Shaw "never let whoever he was blocking even be in on a play, let alone make a tackle," Wistrom said. "As a tight end that's something you take pride in a little bit."

The highlight tapes Brown shows aren't just devoted to blocking, however, and they don't just feature other tight ends. He has shown tapes of Corey Dixon, a 5-foot-8, 160-pound



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split end.

Dixon, whose final season at Nebraska was 1993, was a "phenomenal route runner," said Brown. And watching him on tape "inspires a lot of guys to want to go out and do some of those things."

With an increasing tendency to use one-on-one instead of zone pass coverage, Brown has begun coaching Cornhusker tight ends to run routes as if they were wide receivers.

With zone coverage, "you could play-action people to death," he said. "You play-faked them and safeties were running up the field and tight ends were running down the field, wide open."

That's not the case anymore. Now safeties are matching up with tight ends.

Brown's appreciation for the value of tight end route running can be traced to a summer internship with the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles during the time Keith Jackson played for them.

Even though Jackson, an all-pro tight end, played in a wishbone offense at Oklahoma, he was an excellent route runner. And he ran routes with the precision of a wide receiver. He used "upper-body moves, shakes and spins and releases, all kinds of things," Brown said.

After watching wide receivers,

"it's like anything else. You start thinking of yourself no longer as a big, plodding tight end but as a streamlined, quick tight end, a wide receiver-type tight end."

Expectations for the Cornhuskers' tight ends have changed with the change in perception. They are no longer considered just outlet receivers. "You can be the No. 1 read," said Wistrom.

"And in a lot of our passing plays I am the No. 1 read."

Wistrom's recruitment was met with skepticism. The story of how his weight was a concern has been retold countless times. Many thought he was offered a scholarship because of his brother. Brown knew differently, however, having worked with Tracey in Nebraska's summer football camp.

Wistrom, who weighed 190 pounds, "had turf burns all over his body," Brown said. "We had the old AstroTurf out there. It was 100 degrees, and he's diving for balls. You can measure size and weight and speed. But you have a hard time measuring that heart. And he's got a huge heart."

Brown showed him things about receiving that he began to use during his senior year in high school, and he has continued to develop those skills throughout his time at Nebraska.

Those things are instinctive now, second-nature, said Wistrom.

"Obviously, you need to have some athletic ability. Tracey certainly has that," Brown said. "But he's got a lot of ingenuity, and he was able to pick up a lot. He's done a lot on his own."

"He makes moves sometimes now that come out of his own grab bag, and they're definitive moves. They're not moves that take him out of the path that he needs to be on. They're just little, creative things that he's able to do to get himself free. It's fun to see a guy mature like that."

Wistrom is a "special tight end," said Brown, "certainly one of the most versatile players we've ever had in our offense." And future Cornhusker tight ends will see that.

Brown has told him he'll be the subject of a highlight tape used in teaching them.

"You just keep passing on the legacy," Brown said. ■



It all adds up!

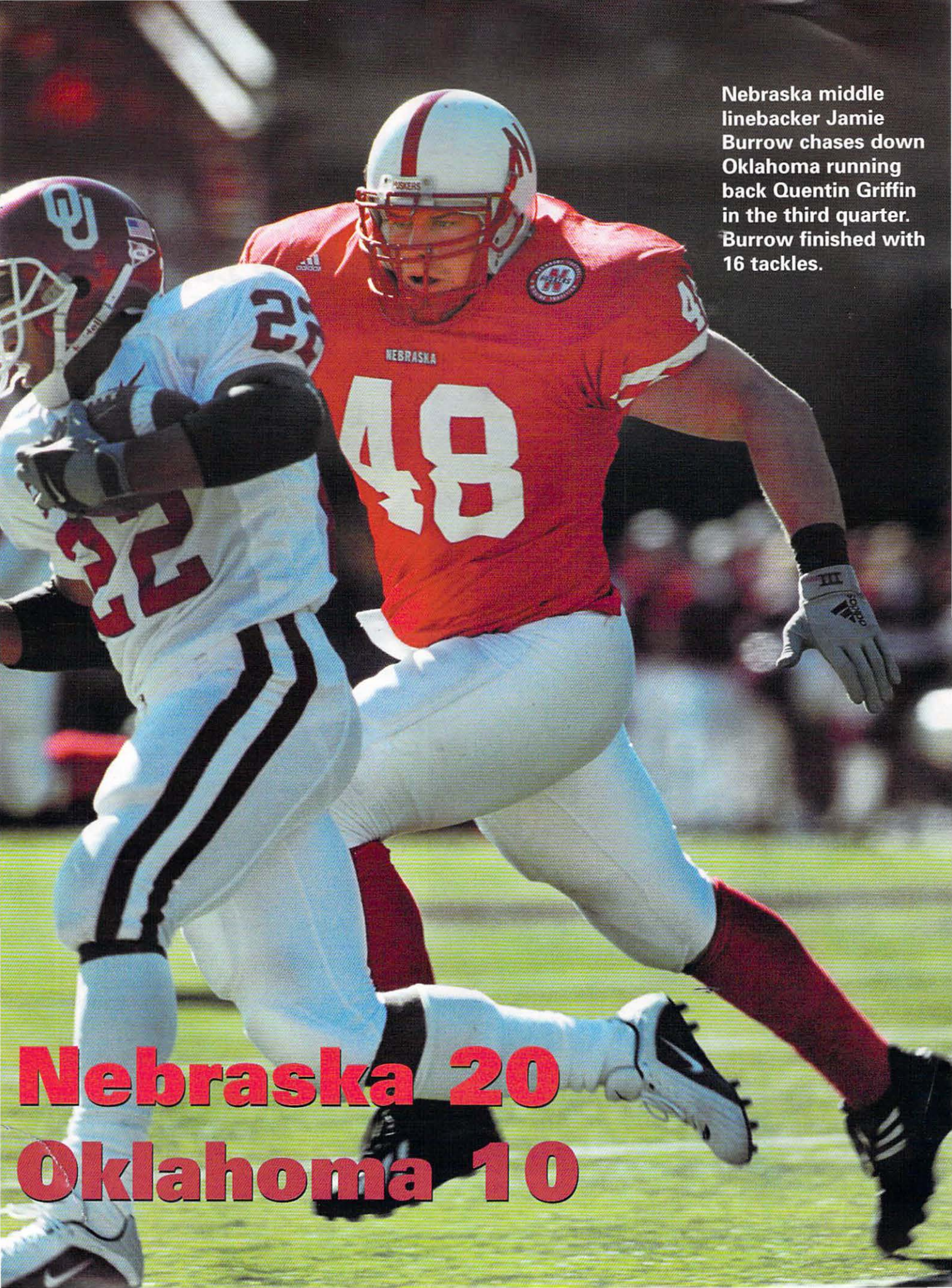
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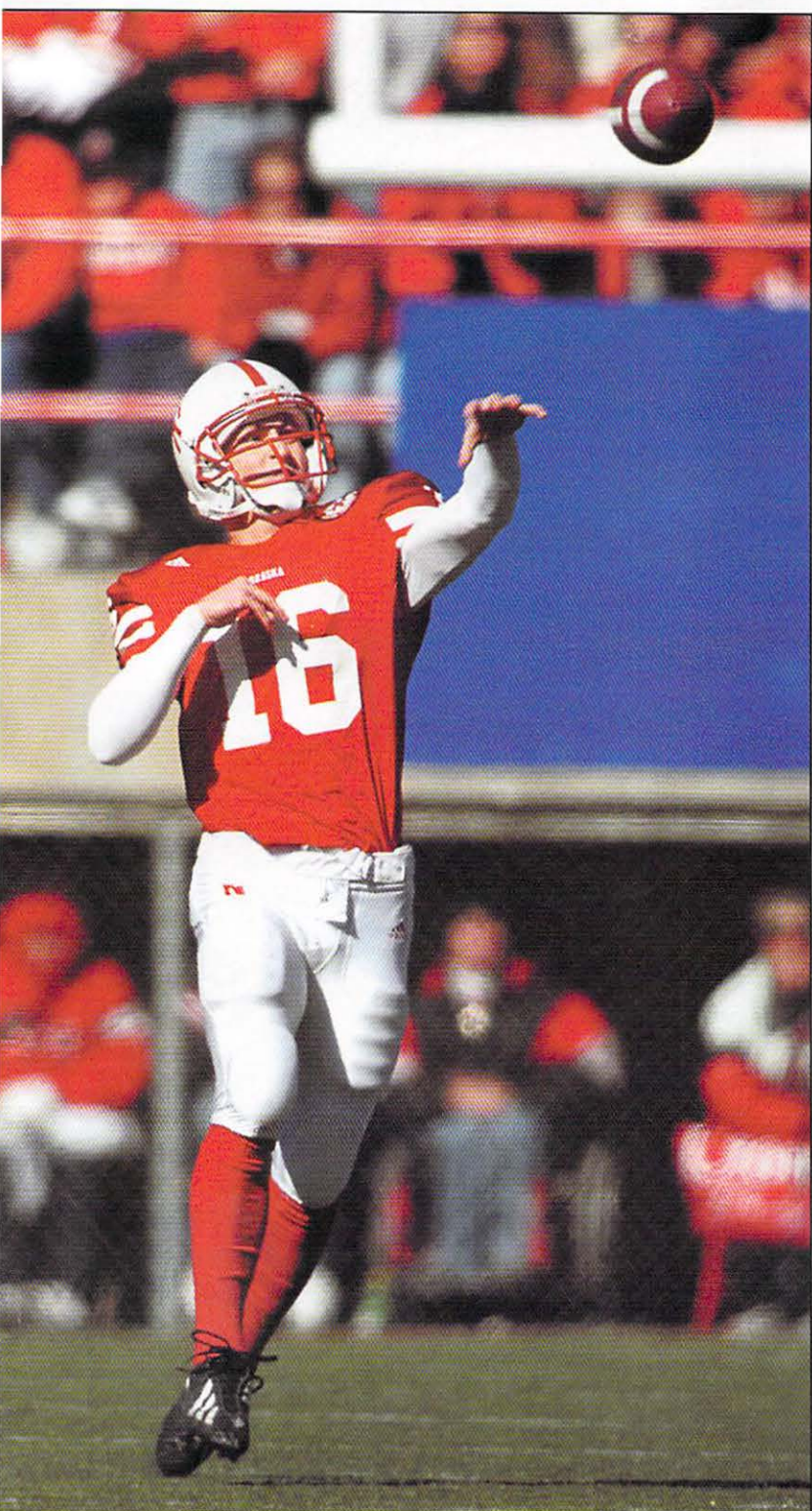
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Nebraska middle
linebacker Jamie
Burrow chases down
Oklahoma running
back Quentin Griffin
in the third quarter.
Burrow finished with
16 tackles.

Nebraska 20
Oklahoma 10

Call It a V



'Reverse pass' is the capper in impressive 20-10 victory

**By Mike Babcock
Photos by Scott Bruhn**

The play needed a catchy and concise name, something to facilitate its recollection 10 years, 20 years and more from now. But Coach Frank Solich offered no suggestions.

Rather, he deferred to Mike Stuntz. The true freshman wide receiver has a 4.0 grade-point average, Solich said. "He's a lot smarter than I am. So let's go with what he says."

Fine, except that what Stuntz said was neither catchy nor concise. In Nebraska's playbook, it was a "black 41 flash reverse pass," he said. And apparently that would have to suffice.

But then, what it was called didn't really matter. The important thing was its effect.

The "black 41 flash reverse pass" was the capper in Nebraska's 20-10 victory against Oklahoma, the play that Solich's offensive conservatism wouldn't allow him to install, much less call.

It was the Cornhuskers' version of the "Sooner magic" that once plagued Tom Osborne's teams. It was an impossible-to-anticipate, rub-your-eyes-and-look-again play. And it went like this.

Nebraska was first-and-10 at its own 37-yard line midway through the fourth quarter, leading 13-10.

Thunder Collins lined up at wingback, split wide to the left. He went in motion and as he ran close by quarterback Eric Crouch, took a handoff, then pitched to Stuntz, who was split wide to the right.

The left-handed Stuntz, who was recruited as a quarterback but was moved to wide receiver for this season, ran back to the left, pulled up and passed to Crouch, who slipped behind the defense after acting as if he were going to block. He caught the pass in stride near the Oklahoma

True freshman Mike Stuntz, a left-handed quarterback who was moved to wide receiver for this season, lofts a pass to quarterback Eric Crouch, who slipped behind defenders after acting as if he was going to block on the reverse play.

Winner



Split end Mike Stuntz (16) and I-back Dahrran Diedrick (30) congratulate quarterback Eric Crouch after the 63-yard scoring play that put Nebraska ahead 20-10 with 6:17 remaining.

39-yard line.

From that point on, it was a chase to the end zone. Kory Klein, a 6-foot-2, 275-pound defensive tackle, wasn't going to catch Crouch. And cornerback Derrick Strait couldn't, even though he had a slight angle. Crouch "was going to out-run everybody," said Stuntz. "He's a very fast man."

The 63-yard touchdown pass gave Nebraska a cushion, which was more than enough for a Jamie Burrow-led defense that matched the Sooners' more publicized defense blow for blow.

"I thought it was just great," Solich said of the defense.

Oklahoma gained 339 yards, but managed only 10 points, all in the second quarter. "Yards don't really matter to us if we're keeping them out of the end zone," said Solich.

Ironically, the Sooners tried a pass

play similar to the one from Stuntz to Crouch near the end of the first half.

But it failed when a wide-open Nate Hybl, the quarterback, slipped and fell.

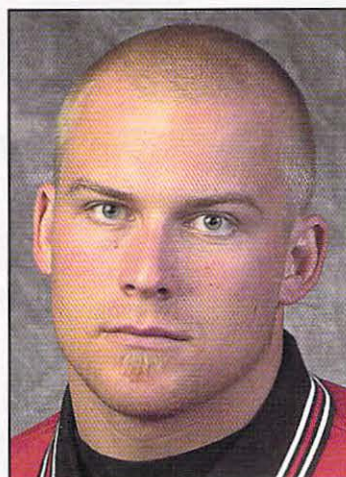
Oklahoma had faced first-and-10 at the Nebraska 20-yard line.

On the next play, Hybl and Josh Norman teamed up on an 18-yard pass play that gave the Sooners first-and-goal at the 2-yard line. But Nebraska held and forced a tying field goal.

At halftime, Cornhusker defensive coordinator Craig Bohl "said that might be the changing point in the game," said Burrow, who made 16 tackles from his middle linebacker position.

As was the case with just about everyone else in Memorial Stadium, the Stuntz-to-Crouch pass surprised Burrow. "We had a three-point lead,"

Husker Player of the Game



Jamie Burrow

Sack Provides 'Redemption'

Jamie Burrow said he made "a couple of mistakes" in Nebraska's 20-10 victory over Oklahoma. But you would never have known by looking at the statistics. The Cornhuskers' senior middle linebacker was credited with a game-high 16 tackles and one quarterback sack, for a 12-yard loss.

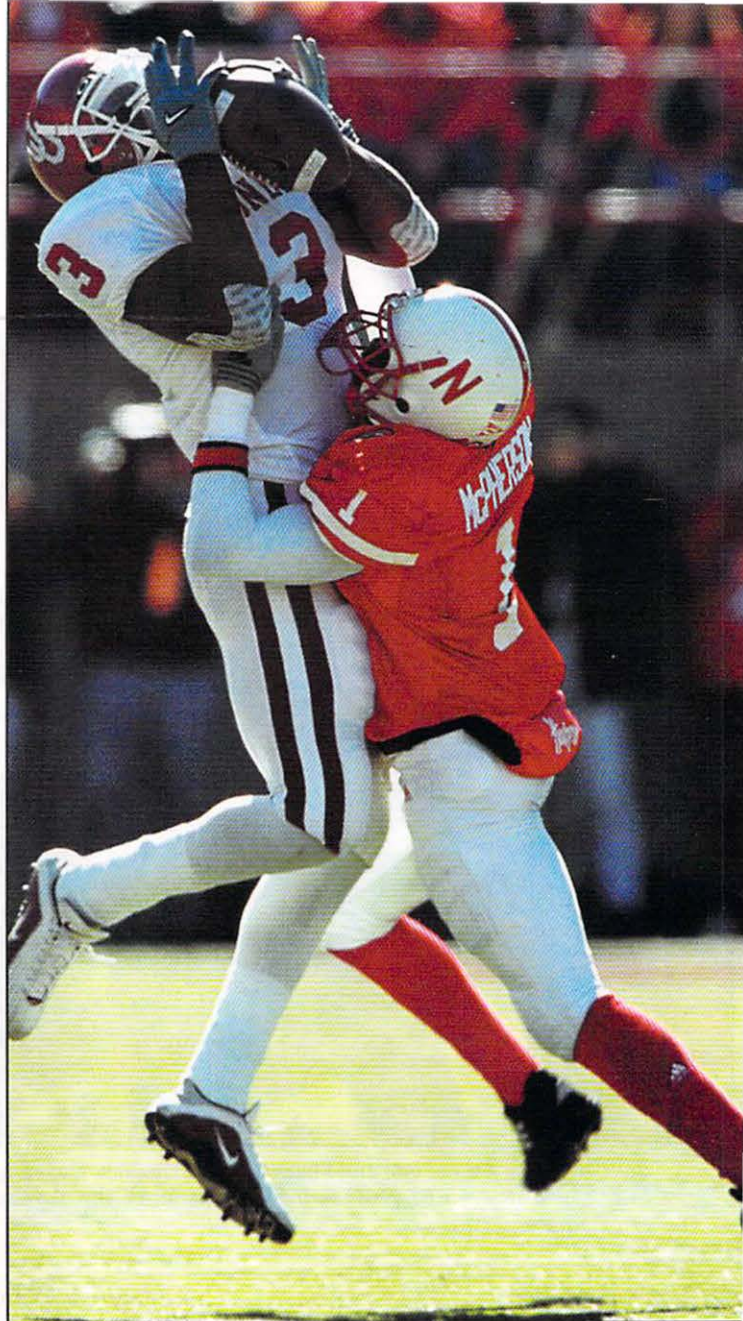
The sack came on Oklahoma's next-to-last possession and forced a punt. It also provided "a little redemption," said Burrow. During the first half, "I had a couple of mistakes."

Nebraska put in a couple of new blitzes for the middle linebacker, and he "messed up" one, he said. On the play, Sooners quarterback Nate Hybl was wide-open on a play on which he had become a receiver, after handing off on a reverse. He lost his footing, however, and the pass was incomplete.

The Cornhusker defense limited Oklahoma to 10 points, a week after giving up 31 points to Texas Tech. "I think we really learned some lessons from the Texas Tech game," Burrow said.

Burrow was as surprised as anyone when Coach Frank Solich called for the reverse pass from Mike Stuntz to Eric Crouch for the clinching touchdown. Afterward, "Coach Solich was standing there, congratulating all of us as we came off the field," said Burrow.

"I saw him and said, 'You crazy son-of-a-gun.' It was a great call." ■



After punting on its first six possessions, Nebraska finally got its offense rolling with a 10-play, 80-yard drive that answered Oklahoma's first touchdown. Dahrran Diedrick broke loose for 16 yards to the OU 2 (left), before scoring on the next play. The Husker defense was up to the tall task of containing OU's talented receivers. Cornerback Lornell McPherson had 2 of NU's 5 pass breakups, including this one (above), on a pass intended for Josh Norman.

he said. "It was a pretty risky call."

Although the second of two Josh Brown field goals, from 26 yards with 11:31 left in the third quarter, provided all the points Nebraska needed, the Stuntz pass was the game's defining moment.

And whatever the risk, it was offset by the situation. "It seemed to fit for us when we threw it," Solich said. "We ended up being on the right hash (mark) and the down and distance were really ideal."

Timing, of course, was everything. The series began with 8:54 remaining, after the Sooners downed one of their 10 punts — Nebraska also punted 10 times — near the Cornhusker 4-yard line.

Though the Oklahoma defense had contained him all afternoon, Crouch broke a 19-yard run on second down to give Nebraska room to maneuver. But it appeared the series would end three plays later, when Crouch was pulled down for a 7-

yard loss on third down at the 32.

An incidental facemask penalty charged against Sooner defensive end Cory Heinecke, however, gave Nebraska a first down at the 37-yard line and set the stage for the reverse pass.

The potential for deception was enhanced on Nebraska's first play from scrimmage in the second half when Collins went in motion, took handoff as he ran close by Crouch and gained 39 yards.

The possession was set up by Erwin Swiney's interception of a Hybl pass and culminated with Brown's field goal, after the Cornhuskers reached the 3-yard line only to be pushed back.

On second-and-goal, Crouch rolled out away from his blockers and was dropped for a 6-yard loss. Sometimes plays look as if they will work but they don't, Solich said. Even so, against a defense such as Oklahoma's, "if you don't take a few chances, you're not going to move the ball at all."

Any risk on the Stuntz-to-Crouch pass was calculated. "We knew Thunder would draw a lot of attention," said Solich. And Stuntz was told "if it's not there, don't throw it."

"We talked to him about making sure Eric was in the clear."

Solich said it appeared to him that Stuntz "double-clutched. I thought, 'Oh no.'"

Stuntz could have tucked away the ball and run with it. But he didn't consider that. "Maybe it looked like I was going to take off running for a second there," he said. "I just kind of wanted to be absolutely sure that I had a good grip on the ball. I just wanted to be sure I made a good pass."

"I didn't want it to be a duck or get picked off, something like that."

The play, which Nebraska put in early in the week, is bound to go down with the most memorable in Cornhusker history, among them Johnny Rodgers' punt return against Oklahoma in 1971, Matt Davison's pass reception against Missouri in 1997 and Crouch's run against Missouri this season.

The team watched clips of memorable plays in the Oklahoma series in meetings leading up to the game, and many of those plays were shown on the HuskerVision screens during the game.

Though his focus was the game, Stuntz occasionally glanced at the screens during lengthy television timeouts. "I saw those things they kept running . . . one for the ages or whatever," he said.

"And I thought to myself, 'What if that (play) shows up on this later?'"

There's no what if? It will, whether or not it is given a catchy, concise name. ■

4TH & 1NCHES

Notes And Quotes From The Oklahoma Game

EMOTIONAL COACH

Although Cornhusker Coach Frank Solich was composed during post-game interviews, in the locker room after the game "he was just like the rest of us," said offensive tackle Dave Volk.

"He's got a lot of football player in him and it really showed. He does a good job of keeping it in check for you guys (reporters), but he was pretty emotional."

INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

An emotional George Darlington, Nebraska's veteran secondary coach, chastised "some of our stupid fans" who booed when Oklahoma came onto the field before the game.

"That is not Nebraska-Oklahoma. I hope the press will make note of that," he said. "There weren't many. But that's a lot of crap because when these two programs play, and this is my 30th, I can very seldom ever remember a time they weren't wars in a very competitive situation." Even so, those games have always reflected "the greatest sportsmanship between the two programs."

QUARTERBACK QUANDARY

Sophomore Jason White started at quarterback for Oklahoma, but suffered a knee injury early in the second quarter and had to be helped off the field. Junior Nate Hybl replaced him.

"I think it is fairly obvious that our offense doesn't change no matter who's in there," said Oklahoma Coach Bob Stoops. "We run the same plays, regardless of one guy being a hair more elusive than the other. We run the same offense, and Nate is capable of running as well. We don't change anything."

SAME PLAY

Both teams ran a reverse pass. Oklahoma's, from freshman wide receiver Mark Clayton to Hybl late in the first half, was incomplete because Hybl slipped and fell. Nebraska's, from freshman wide receiver Mike Stuntz to quarterback Eric Crouch, went for 63 yards and a touchdown.

"When I saw him (Crouch) running down the sideline, I almost had to half-chuckle to myself, 'I'll be a son-of-a-gun,'" said the Sooners' Stoops. "Theirs worked, and ours didn't."

HEISMAN HOPES

After the 63-yard touchdown pass from Stuntz to Crouch, the HuskerVision screens showed highlights of Crouch, including one that dissolved in a Heisman Trophy pose. Although he rushed for only 19 yards and passed for 105 yards, the pass reception was good national exposure.

(The game was televised nationally by ABC.)

As a result, his chances of winning the Heisman might have been enhanced. However, "I truly believe that Eric doesn't think along those lines," said Solich. Crouch concurred. "I never really thought about what it does for me personally," he said.

Reporters told Stuntz that he might have helped Crouch's Heisman chances. "That would be great," said Stuntz, a candidate to succeed Crouch in the future. "But he has done that by himself. He's a great player. Maybe if I contributed in some small way that would make me feel good."

"But really, Eric's talent level, Eric's leadership are what's going to win it for him if he gets it."

SMELLING THE ROSES

In what has become typical fashion for him, Crouch said that the Cornhuskers' concern was their next game at Kansas. "That's the way it is," he said. "I'm not taught to say that." However, the victory against Oklahoma did put "us in the driver's seat for the Rose Bowl."

The top two teams in the BCS rankings will play for the national title in the Rose Bowl on Jan. 3.

Volk also cautioned against looking too far ahead. "This win doesn't mean a whole lot if we go out and lose next week or the week after that or the week after that," he said. "So we've got to get focused. We've got to stay focused. And we've got to keep winning."

ANOTHER REMATCH

Nebraska and Oklahoma could very well end up playing against in the Big 12 championship game in Irving, Texas, on Dec. 1. "It's going to be helpful having played them before," Volk said of the Sooners. "Both teams are going to have a full game type against each other to work on if we get there."

"But we've still got to get there." ■

2001 Schedule

(Team's current record)

1	Aug. 25	TCU (4-3), W 21-7	1-0
2	Sept. 1	Troy State (4-3), W 42-14	2-0
3	Sept. 8	Notre Dame (3-4), W 27-10	3-0
4	Sept. 20	Rice (6-2), W 48-3	4-0
5	Sept. 29	@ Missouri (3-4), W 36-3	5-0
6	Oct. 6	Iowa State (5-2), W 48-14	6-0
7	Oct. 13	@ Baylor (2-5), W 48-7	7-0
8	Oct. 20	Texas Tech (4-3), W 41-31	8-0
9	Oct. 27	Oklahoma (7-1), W 20-10	9-0
10	Nov. 3	@ Kansas (2-5), 6 p.m., Fox Sports Net	
11	Nov. 10	Kansas State (3-4), TBA	
12	Nov. 23	@ Colorado (6-2), 2:30 p.m., ABC	
	Dec. 1	Big 12 Championship at Irving, Texas, 7 p.m., ABC	

Game 10

At Kansas

Nov. 3

Location: Lawrence, Kan.

Enrollment: 27,407

2001 record: 2-5

Coach: Terry Allen, 5th year

Series: Nebraska leads 82-21-3



6 p.m. (Fox Sports Net)

Memorial Stadium, Lawrence, Kan.

Jayhawk to Watch

Redshirt freshman quarterback **Mario Kinsey** will become the first KU athlete to letter in football and basketball since 1988. He averaged 1.9 points for the Jayhawk basketball team last season.



Since being suspended for the opener for violating team rules, the 6-foot-1, 195-pound native of Waco, Texas, has come on to pass for 860 yards and 5 touchdowns and rush for 206 yards and 3 TDs. In high school, he passed for 4,933 yards and 50 TDs his last two seasons.

Quick Facts

In its most recent ranking of college football team schedules, the NCAA has ranked the 2001 Kansas schedule as the most difficult in Division IA football. The overall record of teams on the Kansas schedule this season was 43-18 for a .705 winning percentage.

True freshman kicker **Johnny Beck** provided all of the KU points against Kansas State with field goals of 42 and 36 yards. For the season, he has hit 12 of 17, including a 59-yarder at Colorado.

Senior linebacker **Marcus Rodgers** leads the KU defense with 87 tackles, including 52 solo stops.

Big 12 at a Glance

North			All		
	Conf.				
Nebraska	5	0	9	0	
Colorado	4	1	6	2	
Iowa State	3	2	5	2	
Missouri	2	3	3	4	
Kansas State	1	4	3	4	
Kansas	1	4	2	5	
South			All		
	Conf.				
Oklahoma	4	1	7	1	
Texas	4	1	7	1	
Texas A&M	4	1	7	1	
Texas Tech	2	3	4	3	
Baylor	0	5	2	5	
Oklahoma State	0	5	2	6	

Oct. 27 results

Nebraska 20, Oklahoma 10
 Kansas State 40, Kansas 6
 Texas 35, Missouri 16
 Texas Tech 63, Baylor 19
 Texas A&M 24, Iowa State 21
 Colorado 22, Oklahoma State 19

Nonconference opponents

Boston College 21, Notre Dame 17
 Troy State 20, Southern Utah 17
 Louisiana Tech 41, Rice 38, ot
 Oct. 30: East Carolina at TCU

Upcoming Opponents' Schedules

Kansas (2-5)	
Sept. 1	Southwest Mo. St., W 24-10
Sept. 8	UCLA, L 41-17
Sept. 22	at Colorado, L 27-16
Oct. 6	at Texas Tech, W 34-31, 2 ot
Oct. 13	Oklahoma, L 38-10
Oct. 20	Missouri, L 38-34
Oct. 27	at Kansas State, L 40-6
Nov. 3	Nebraska
Nov. 10	at Texas
Nov. 17	Iowa State
Nov. 24	Wyoming

Kansas State (3-4)	
Sept. 8	at USC, W 10-6
Sept. 22	New Mexico State, W 64-0
Sept. 29	at Oklahoma, L 38-37
Oct. 6	Colorado, L 16-6
Oct. 13	at Texas Tech, L 38-19
Oct. 20	Texas A&M, L 31-24
Oct. 27	Kansas, W 40-6
Nov. 3	at Iowa State
Nov. 10	at Nebraska
Nov. 17	Louisiana Tech
Nov. 24	Missouri

On Deck

Kansas State
Nov. 10

Location: Manhattan, Kan.

Enrollment: 21,929

2001 record: 3-4

Coach: Bill Snyder, 13th year

Series: Nebraska leads 71-12-2

Time TBA

Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Neb.



Tentative 2 Deeps

NEBRASKA OFFENSE

SE	9	Wilson Thomas**	6-6	215	Jr.
81	Ben Cornelsen*	5-10	190	Jr.	
LT	58	Dave Volk***	6-5	300	Sr.
73	Scott Koethe*	6-5	310	Jr.	
LG	77	Toni Fonoti**	6-4	340	Jr.
74	Steve Altstadt*	6-5	295	Sr.	
C	52	John Garrison**	6-4	285	Jr.
53	Matt Shook*	6-2	300	Jr.	
RG	66	Jon Rutherford***	6-3	300	Sr.
59	Wes Cody*	6-2	295	Jr.	
RT	68	Dan Waldrop*	6-5	330	So.
66	Jon Rutherford***	6-3	300	Sr.	
TE	87	Tracey Wistrom***	6-5	240	Sr.
99	Aaron Golliday*	6-4	285	Jr.	
QB	7	Eric Crouch***	6-1	200	Sr.
10	Jammal Lord*	6-2	215	So.	
FB	4	Judd Davies*	6-0	240	So.
45	Steve Kriewald	5-10	255	Fr.	
IB	30	Dahren Diedrick**	6-0	225	Jr.
1	Thunder Collins*	6-2	190	Jr.	
WB	8	John Gibson***	6-0	195	Sr.
89	Troy Hassebrook**	6-4	220	Jr.	
PK	26	Josh Brown**	6-2	190	Jr.

NEBRASKA DEFENSE

LR	57	Chris Kelsay**	6-5	270	Jr.
92	Justin Smith**	6-4	260	Jr.	
NT	55	Jon Clanton**	6-2	280	Jr.
59	Ryon Bingham	6-3	275	So.	
DT	56	Jeremy Slichta***	6-6	285	Sr.
85	Casay Nelson**	6-2	285	Sr.	
RR	98	Demoine Adams**	6-2	235	Jr.
95	J.P. Wichmann**	6-4	230	Sr.	
SLB	43	Scott Shanley**	6-2	235	Jr.
47	Ira Cooper	6-2	220	Fr.	
MLB	48	Jamie Burrow***	6-1	245	Sr.
38	Barrett Ruud	6-2	220	Fr.	
WLB	9	Mark Vedral***	6-1	210	Sr.
17	T.J. Hollowell*	6-0	220	So.	
LCB	3	Keyuo Craver***	5-10	190	Sr.
28	Pat Ricketts*	5-11	180	So.	
FS	27	Willie Amos*	6-0	185	So.
or 14	Dion Booker***	6-1	205	Sr.	
ROV	21	Philip Bland	6-0	205	Fr.
2	Aaron Terpening**	5-11	200	Jr.	
RCB	5	DeJuan Groce**	5-10	190	Jr.
or 16	Erwin Swiney***	6-0	185	Sr.	
P	19	Kyle Larson	6-0	205	So.

KANSAS OFFENSE

SE	86	Barry Goodrich*	6-1	190	Jr.
84	Brandon Rideau	6-3	170	Fr.	
LT	61	Justin Sands**	6-7	300	Jr.
77	Jawad Pearson	6-5	305	Jr.	
LG	53	Bob Smith**	6-4	290	Sr.
66	John Harvey	6-6	300	Jr.	
C	60	Nick Smith**	6-4	280	Jr.
73	Greg Nicks	6-4	300	Jr.	
RG	65	Kyle Grady*	6-5	305	Jr.
57	Jason Stevenson**	6-2	285	Sr.	
RT	75	Justin Hartwig***	6-4	295	Sr.
70	Gabe Rosalis**	6-5	295	Jr.	
TE	88	David Hurst**	6-3	260	Jr.
87	Adrian Jones*	6-5	255	So.	
QB	17	Mario Kinsey	6-1	190	Fr.
13	Zach Dyer*	6-3	205	So.	
HB	11	Reggie Duncan*	5-9	215	So.
36	Marshall Chiles	5-9	180	Fr.	
FB	34	Mitchell Scott	6-3	245	Jr.
33	Austine Nwabuisi	6-1	230	Fr.	
FL	9	Termaine Fulton***	5-10	190	Jr.
2	Byron Gassaway**	6-4	210	Jr.	
K	46	Johnny Beck	6-1	205	Fr.

KANSAS DEFENSE

LE	67	Travis Watkins	6-4	270	Fr.
72	Brandon Lacy	6-3	265	Jr.	
LT	92	Nate Dwyer***	6-3	305	Sr.
99	Tony Strickland*	6-6	270	So.	
RT	95	Ervin Holloman*	6-3	300	Sr.
93	Marquis Hayes*	6-4	285	Sr.	
RE	51	Charlie Dennis	6-5	235	Jr.
69	David McMillan	6-4	240	Fr.	
SLB	98	Algie Atkinson***	6-5	240	Sr.
38	Glenn Robinson*	6-3	230	So.	
MLB	8	Marcus Rogers***	6-2	235	Sr.
5	Banks Floodman	6-2	205	Fr.	
WLB	6	Leo Etienne	6-0	205	Jr.
56	Greg Cole	6-2	235	Jr.	
LCB	24	Andrew Davison***	5-11	185	Sr.
23	Matt Jordan**	5-10	190	Jr.	
SS	39	Jake Letourneau*	6-2	200	Jr.
20	Santana Lane	6-0	170	Fr.	
FS	4	Jamaree Bryant*	5-11	200	Sr.
27	Leo Bookman	6-1	205	Fr.	
RCB	3	Carl Ivey*	5-11	175	So.
7	Quincy Roe***	5-9	190	Sr.	
P	41	Chris Tyrrell	5-11	225	Fr.

THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION

NEBRASKA vs. KANSAS

NOV. 3, 2001

HUSKERS ARRIVE IN LAWRENCE WITH AN APPETITE FOR A JAYHAWK DINING EXPERIENCE!

PICKS

Brian Hill Editor

The Jayhawks have struggled against a difficult schedule that included UCLA and Oklahoma, but they did win at Texas Tech. After an emotional victory over Oklahoma, Nebraska could be primed for a letdown, but that shouldn't matter here. After two tight games, the reserves should see plenty of action. **Nebraska 52, Kansas 13**

Mike Babcock Contributing Editor

Nebraska's last two trips to Lawrence have been unpleasantly eventful. In 1999, the Cornhuskers had to scramble to win 24-17. In 1997, they had to

NEBRASKA AT KANSAS

wait for a bank of lights to come back in inclement weather so they could win 35-0. Then many Nebraska fans returned home to the effects of a devastating snow storm. So you never know what's going to happen in this one. **Nebraska 45, Kansas 10**

Terry Douglass Grand Island Independent Sports Editor

After scoring an emotion-filled victory over Oklahoma, Nebraska needs to be on upset alert, as the Cornhuskers go on the road against a Kansas team with absolutely nothing to lose. Unfortunately for the Jayhawks, Nebraska has too much on the line to let down. **Nebraska 44, Kansas 17**

BY THE NUMBERS

Nebraska vs. Oklahoma

Oct. 27, 2001 • Memorial Stadium • Lincoln, Neb.

Score By Quarters

Oklahoma	0	10	0	0	—	10
Nebraska	0	10	3	7	—	20

Team Stats

	OU	NU
First Downs	21	13
Rushing	6	7
Passing	14	5
Penalty	1	1
Rushing Attempts	29	44
Yards Gained Rushing	135	185
Yards Lost Rushing	30	21
Net Yards Rushing	105	164
Net Yards Passing	234	165
Passes Attempted	50	19
Passes Completed	22	11
Had Intercepted	2	1
Total Plays	79	63
Total Net Yards	339	329
Avg. Gain Per Play	4.3	5.2
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	6-45	6-57
Punts-Yards	10-386	10-382
Avg. Per Punt	38.6	38.2
Punt Returns-Yards	5-3	6-46
Interceptions-Yards	1-0	2-24
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	1-20	2-47
Possession Time	29:08	30:52

Scoring

OU — Trent Smith 4-yard pass from Nate Hybl (Tim Duncan kick)

NU — Dahrran Diedrick 2-yard run (Josh Brown kick)

NU — Brown 27-yard field goal

OU — Duncan 20-yard field goal

NU — Brown 26-yard field goal

NU — Eric Crouch 63-yard pass from Mike Stuntz (Brown kick)

Att. — 78,031

Weather — sunny

Temp. — 38

Individual Leaders

OKLAHOMA

RUSHING

Name	Att.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Griffin, Q.	15	63	4.2	18	0
Savage, A.	2	23	11.5	21	0
Hybl, N.	7	13	1.9	13	0
White, J.	4	6	1.5	11	0
Norman, J.	1	0	0.0	0	0

PASSING

Name	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Hybl, N.	17-36	47.2	184	1
White, J.	5-13	38.5	50	0
Clayton, M.	0-1-0	00.0	0	0

RECEIVING

Name	No.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Smith, T.	7	62	8.9	15	1
Clayton, M.	6	62	10.3	16	0
Norman, J.	4	48	12.0	18	0
Griffin, Q.	3	27	9.0	16	0
Savage, A.	2	35	17.5	32	0

PUNTING

Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG
Ferguson, J.	9	353	39.2	54
Duncan, T.	1	33	33.0	33

PUNT RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Fagan, C.	5	3	0.6	5	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Savage, A.	1	20	20.0	20	0

DEFENSE

Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Williams, R.	8	1	9	1-2	0	0
Strait, D.	7	2	9	0	0	0
Calmus, R.	6	3	9	1-2	0	0
Wilkerson, J.	5	3	8	2-10	0	0
Lehman, T.	4	1	5	1-3	0	0
Everage, B.	2	3	5	0	1-0	0
Klein, K.	1	3	4	0	0	0
Harris, T.	2	1	3	2-2	0	0
Perkins, A.	2	1	3	0	0	0
Daniel, R.	0	2	2	0	0	0
Odum, B.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Skinner, M.	1	0	1	0	0	0
McCoy, M.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Savage, A.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Smith, T.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Norman, J.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Dvoracek, D.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Duncan, T.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Peoples, W.	0	1	1	0	0	0

NEBRASKA

RUSHING

Name	Att.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Diedrick, D.	23	90	3.9	16	1
Collins, T.	4	47	11.8	39	0
Crouch, E.	13	21	1.6	19	0
Kastl, P.	1	5	5.0	5	0
Kriewald, S.	2	2	1.0	2	0
Team	1	-1	-1.0	0	0

PASSING

Name	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Crouch, E.	10-18	55.6	102	0
Stuntz, M.	1-1-0	100.0	63	1

RECEIVING

Name	No.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Thomas, W.	6	48	8.0	13	0
Collins, T.	2	18	9.0	18	0
Crouch, E.	1	63	63.0	63	1
Ringenberg, K.	1	19	19.0	19	0
Wistrom, T.	1	17	17.0	17	0

PUNTING

Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG
Larson, K.	10	382	38.2	68

PUNT RETURNS

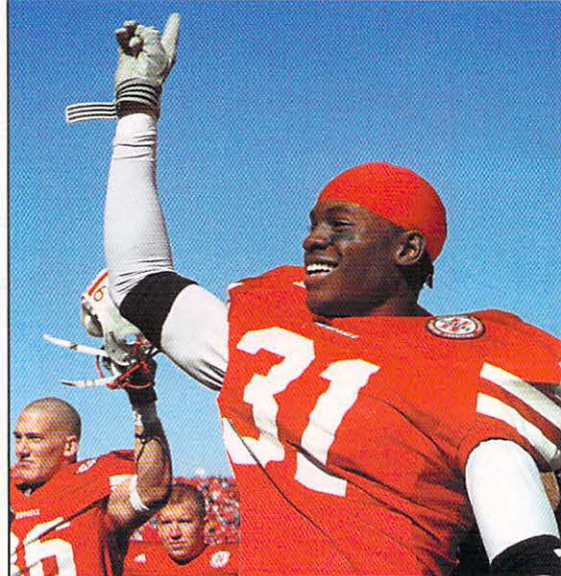
Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Groce, D.	5	40	8.0	33	0
Cornelsen, B.	1	6	6.0	6	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Hassebroek, T.	1	28	28.0	28	0
Davis, J.	1	19	19.0	19	0

DEFENSE

Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Burrow, J.	8	8	16	1-12	0	1-12
Kelsay, C.	3	4	7	1-1	0	0
Craver, K.	2	4	6	0	1-24	0
Ruud, B.	2	3	5	0	0	0
Vedral, M.	1	4	5	1-2	0	0.5-2
Groce, D.	3	1	4	0	0	0
Swiney, E.	3	1	4	0	1-0	0
Siechta, J.	2	2	4	0	0	0
Clanton, J.	2	2	4	1-12	0	1-12
McPherson, L.	1	2	3	0	0	0
Ricketts, P.	2	0	2	0	0	0
Nelson, C.	1	1	2	0	0	0
Amos, W.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Booker, D.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Terpening, A.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Bingham, R.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Cooper, I.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Shanle, S.	0	1	1	1-3	0	0.5-3



Free safety Jerrell Pippens and his teammates have that No. 1 feeling as they leave the field.

2001 SEASON STATS

RUSHING

Name	G	Att.	Yds.	YPG	TD
Diedrick, D.	9	172	961	120.1	10
Crouch, E.	9	149	798	88.7	14
Collins, T.	9	72	527	58.6	4
Davies, J.	9	33	206	22.9	4
Grixby, D.	6	22	86	14.3	0
Kriewald, S.	8	14	67	8.4	0
Davis, J.	9	8	61	6.8	1
Lord, J.	5	20	41	8.2	1
Cornelsen, B.	8	2	33	4.1	0
Kastl, P.	6	5	25	4.2	0

PASSING

Name	G	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Crouch, E.	9	75-130-6	57.7	1088	7
Lord, J.	5	5-8-1	62.5	65	0
Stuntz, M.	8	1-1-0	100.0	63	1

RECEIVING

Name	G	No.	Yds.	YPC	YPR	TD
Thomas, W.	9	28	442	15.8	49.1	3
Wistrom, T.	8	19	290	15.3	36.2	2
Gibson, J.	9	12	194	16.2	21.6	1
Collins, T.	9	12	111	9.2	12.3	0
Bowling, J.	8	2	41	20.5	5.1	1
Crouch, E.	9	1	63	63.0	7.0	1

FIELD GOALS

Name	G	Att.	Good	Long
Brown, J.	8	7	5	38
DeAngelis, S.	7	3	2	21

PUNTING

Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG
Larson, K.	44	1,889	42.9	68

PUNT RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Groce, D.	27	371	13.7	34	0
Craver, K.	17	183	10.8	31	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Davis, J.	16	431	26.9	43	0

DEFENSE

Name	G	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	S/Yds.
Burrow, J.	9	20	40	60	11-33	0	2.5-21
Craver, K.	9	30	19	49	2-3	3-97	0
Vedral, M.	9	18	25	43	5-12	1-0	1.5-3
Ruud, B.	9	14	27	41	6-15	0	0.5-3
Booker, D.	9	24	15	39	1-1	1-18	0
Shanle, S.	9	18	20	38	6-19	0	2-12
Kelsay, C.	9	15	17	32	12-37	0	3-19
McPherson, L.	9	19	9	28	3-11	0	1-8
Ricketts, P.	9	17	9	26	0	0	0
Siechta, J.	9	10	16	26	3-9	0	1-7

TEAM STATISTICS

Total Offensive Yards	4,090	2,385				
Plays	653	624				
Average Per Play	6.3	3.8				
Average Per Game	454.4	265.0				
Net Rushing Yards	2,874	660				
Attempts	514	280				
TDs Rushing	35	4				
Net Passing Yards	1,216	1,725				
Completions	81	150				
Average Per Pass	8.7	5.0				
Average Per Catch	15.0	11.5				
Average Per Game	135.1	191.7				
TDs Passing	8	5				
Sacks By-Yards	31-262	6-46				
Fumbles-Lost	21-11	18-6				
Penalties-Yards	54-528	60-466				
Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
NU	113	89	64	65	0	331
Opponents	30	42	17	10	0	99

New Faces, Attitude

'New team' leaves disappointment, frustration behind

Cary Cochran was eager for basketball practice to begin in mid-October. The disappointment and frustration of last season's 14-16 record have been replaced by an optimism based on an abundance of new faces and the fresh attitude that always comes with starting over.

"You look down the roster, there aren't many guys that played here before," said the senior from Minden, Iowa. "But that isn't always a bad thing because now we have a lot of guys who haven't gone through what some of us have gone through in the past. It's kind of a new team."

Cochran was among eight lettermen who reported for the start of practice on the morning of the Nebraska football team's game at Baylor. But he was one of only four returnees with significant experience. And one of those four, Ross Buckendahl, didn't play last season.

Buckendahl, a senior walk-on from Battle Creek, Neb., was sidelined by a knee problem that has continued to bother him, hampering him during pre-season conditioning.

In addition to Cochran, only senior John Robinson II and sophomore Brian Conklin played an average of more than 5 minutes per game last season. Another, junior Wilson Thomas, is expected to join the team when the football season is finished. He is the starting split end.

Everyone else on Coach Barry Collier's second Cornhusker team is either inexperienced or new, which is all right with Cochran as long as they're willing to work hard and "want to compete. I think in the past we had guys who wanted to play but not necessarily all the time," he said.

Cochran wasn't naming names. "I'm just saying in general, I don't think we had guys who necessarily wanted to put in the effort or put in the work necessary to succeed," he said.

That's different now, said Cochran. "I think we have a lot of guys that want to put in the effort because they want to succeed, as opposed to just wanting to succeed in the worst way, if you



Senior guard Cary Cochran has the most experience of Nebraska's eight returning lettermen.

know what I mean. I think this team has a bunch of individuals that really want to be good players."

One, in particular, came to mind, Cochran said. "He will do anything to be a good basketball player, and he's going to play a lot. Probably to some he's going to be a surprise. But he just wants to get better and wants to win. That's kind of what's been brought in with our freshman class."

Cochran hadn't named the player he was praising so profusely.

"Well, do you want to know?" he asked reporters.

The player to whom he referred was Jake Muhlheisen, a 6-foot-4, 190-pound freshman guard from Southeast High in Lincoln. "I know he wasn't the most highly recruited kid out of the Big 12 Conference, but he just stands out to me as a guy who wants to get better," Cochran said.

Cochran's enthusiasm about Muhlheisen exceeded his ability to express it figuratively. Muhlheisen's hard work is "like a disease that he's spreading amongst the younger guys," said Cochran. "It's one of those diseases you want. It's a great little story kind of developing there, just his attitude."

Regardless of whether

Muhlheisen's was infectious, "I like their attitudes," Collier said. "The prevailing attitude of our team, I think, is another big step in the right direction. We've got some leadership from our older guys, as they understand what it is that we want to do. And our new guys have had a positive and accepting attitude of our philosophy and how we go about things."

Muhlheisen is one of five scholarship recruits. Center Dan Heimos, forward-center John Turek, guard Corey Simms and guard Brennon Clemmons, a junior college transfer, are the others.

Marques McCarty, a scholarship recruit a year ago, is coming off a redshirt.

Forwards Tony Wilbrand and Garth Glissman are among the new walk-ons.

Heimos, who's 6-11, and Turek, who's 6-9, were both heavier than Collier expected, a fact that made him reconsider redshirting them. Heimos weighed in at 230 pounds, Turek at 220.

"You see these young guys coming in and you're thinking, 'They're going to show up at 212 and 6-9 or 6-11.' If they both were that weight, you'd think one of them is probably going to be a redshirt," said Collier.

"Well, now I don't think that so much."

Turek suffered a high ankle sprain on the Monday before the start of practice and was expected to be sidelined "somewhere on the order of weeks as opposed to days," Collier said.

"But that's not going to stop him from being able to get in the fray."

The pre-season roster included 19 players, counting Thomas, one of whom, 6-8 Andrew Drevo, must sit out after transferring from Morningside College. In addition, Collier indicated that as many as eight other walk-ons would try out. However, "we need to get to a manageable number," he said.

And that probably would happen, he said, by the middle of November.

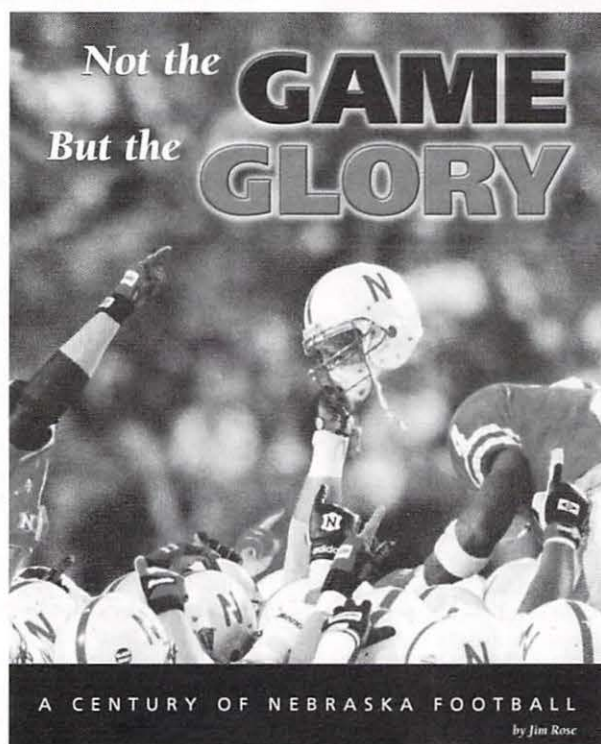
Roster decisions would be "affected by injury and redshirt status," said Collier. "There's probably going to be a redshirt or two offered, but we don't really know who they are right now. We want to give them a chance these first few weeks to really show us kind of what they can do."

Muhlheisen has already shown what he can do, as far as Cochran is concerned, anyway. ■

Huskers Illustrated

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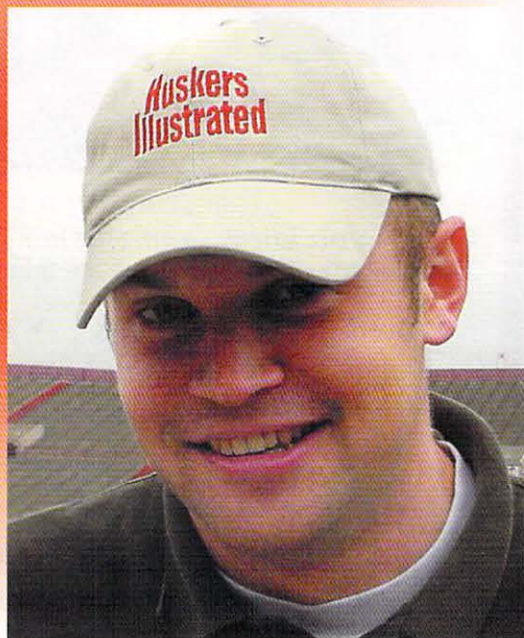
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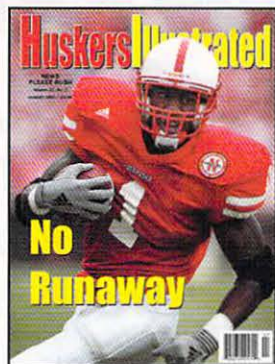
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Fullback Doug Wilkening breaks loose on a trap play for one of his two second quarter touchdowns in Nebraska's 28-24 victory Nov. 26, 1982, at Memorial Stadium.

Interception, Celebration

***Fans swarm
onto field
after key play
by Strasburger***

By Mike Babcock

Scott Strasburger read the play, and anticipated a screen pass. So he was in the right place at the right time, or the right place at the wrong time from Oklahoma's point of view.

The Kelly Phelps pass was intended for fullback Stanley Wilson. But it ended up in the hands of Strasburger, who was dropping in coverage near the Sooners' 24-yard line.

The sophomore defensive end — now Dr. Strasburger, a Nebraska team physician — clutched the ball and headed for the north end zone at Memorial Stadium, reaching the 1-yard line before finally going down. His interception set off a celebration as raucous as it was premature.

Fans swarmed onto the field, intent on destroying the goal posts, even though 26 seconds remained. They buried Strasburger and ignored pleas from the public address announcer to disperse.

An angry Tom Osborne was among those trying to clear the field of massed humanity.

When some semblance of order was restored, Nebraska was penalized 15 yards back to the 16-yard line. One snap started the clock. Time ran out. And fans surged onto the field again.

For half an hour, they ran amok, pulling down the goal posts. Several people were injured, with at least four being treated at Lincoln General Hospital. Even Barry Switzer wasn't spared. The Sooners' coach was knocked to the ground and had to skip the post-game handshake with Osborne.

It was the day after Thanksgiving in 1982.

It was the worst of times. And it was the best of times. Strasburger's interception preserved a 28-24 victory and gave Nebraska its second Big Eight championship in a row.

The victory was the 10th in what would be a 12-1 season. The Cornhuskers would win at Hawaii eight days later, 37-16, and then defeat Louisiana State in the Orange Bowl game, 21-20.

If not for a controversial, 27-24 loss

at Penn State in the third game of the season, Nebraska might have been national champion. As it was, the Cornhuskers finished third in the polls, behind the national champion Nittany Lions, once-beaten, and Southern Methodist, undefeated and untied.

"I hope this win will help our fans get over their Oklahoma hang-up," Osborne told reporters after a second consecutive victory against the Sooners. "I admit it has become a minor irritant to me."

Actually, it was more than a minor irritant. His record against Switzer and Oklahoma was 3-8.

The Sooners were in a down cycle by Sooner standards in 1982. They were coming off the worst season in Switzer's 16-year tenure as coach, 7-4-1 in 1981, and they would finish 8-4 in 1982 and again in 1983 before a national title run in 1985 — the third of three under Switzer.

Down cycle or not, however, Oklahoma was still in position to win the conference title in 1982. The Sooners' only losses to that point had been in non-conference play, both at home.

They opened with a 41-27 loss against West Virginia, and after 29-8 victory at Kentucky, they lost against Southern California 12-0. By the start of conference play, Switzer had scrapped the wishbone offense in favor of an I-formation attack to accommodate Marcus Dupree.

Switzer called the freshman tailback the greatest football talent he had ever seen and predicted Dupree would be a two- or three-time All-American and Heisman Trophy candidate.

Dupree was from a different world, Switzer claimed, referring to that summer's box office smash motion picture "E.T." In truth, Dupree was from tiny Philadelphia, Miss.

He had carried just 12 times for 20 yards in the first three games, with the Sooners running out of the wishbone. In the next seven games, however, he carried 92 times for 736 yards.

Even so, Switzer was as wrong in his predictions regarding Dupree as he was in his predictions regarding the Cornhuskers' Turner Gill. After Gill picked Nebraska over the Sooners, in a heated recruiting battle, Switzer predicted Gill would never play quarterback for the Cornhuskers.

And though he had lost out on Gill, who was from Fort Worth, Texas,

Great Games at Memorial Stadium

Ninth in a Series



Nebraska continues to enjoy amazing success in the friendly confines of Memorial Stadium.

Entering the 2001 season, the Huskers are 81-3 at home the last 13 years and carry a streak of 239 consecutive sellouts. Since it opened in 1923, Memorial Stadium has been the site of many great games. In each issue during the 2001 season, Huskers Illustrated will feature one of those games.

Switzer said he had signed the best wishbone quarterback in Texas anyway, Ricki Byars from LaPorte.

Byars subsequently transferred to Southwest Texas State. No Byars. No wishbone.

Gill, of course, did play quarterback for Nebraska and was 2-0 against the Sooners. He didn't play in the 1981 game, which the Cornhuskers also won, because of a lower leg injury.

Gill was surrounded by offensive talent in 1982, including I-backs Mike Rozier and Roger Craig, wingback Irving Fryar, guard Dean Steinkuhler and center Dave Rimington.

Six days before the game, Rimington was named the repeat winner of the Outland Trophy. He remains the only player to win the award as the nation's best interior lineman twice.

Rimington was so big and so strong, Oklahoma defensive line coach Rex Norris was quoted as saying that the Sooner nose guards would be like children being sent into

the street to play in traffic.

Nebraska would be without Rozier in the second half. The junior I-back had been questionable because of an ankle injury, suffered in the previous game against Iowa State. And he re-injured the ankle on a 13-yard run near the end of the first half.

The carry, his 15th and last of the game, gave him 96 yards.

The game was televised nationally by CBS, and temporary lights were brought in just in case. As it turned out, the lights were turned on. The game was the first at Memorial Stadium to finish under lights. Temporary lights had been set up for the Missouri game but not turned on.

Three days before the Oklahoma game, the NCAA announced sanctions against Clemson for recruiting violations. The Tigers, who had defeated Nebraska in the previous season's Orange Bowl to earn the national championship, were to lose 20 scholarships over the next two seasons.

Clemson also was prohibited from playing in bowl games for two years. The penalty was the most severe ever imposed for such violations, NCAA director of enforcement David Berst said.

Two days before the Oklahoma game, Osborne was asked on a radio call-in show whether, if the situation arose, he would go for a two-point conversion or settle for one and a tie. Unless it was a fourth-and-goal at the 25-yard line, "we'd go for the win," he told the caller from Lexington, Neb.

A year later, in the Orange Bowl game against Miami, with a national championship on the line, Osborne would go for two and the victory, only to see a Gill pass fall incomplete.

No such decision confronted him the day after Thanksgiving in 1982.

The Cornhuskers built a 21-10 half-time lead on touchdown runs by Gill and two by fullback Doug Wilkening, then held off an Oklahoma challenge that included an 86-yard touchdown run by Dupree on the third play from scrimmage in the second half — he finished with 149 yards on 25 carries.

If there had been more time on the clock, the 15-yard penalty charged against the fans at the end might have been costly, according to Osborne. It made no difference, however, except perhaps for bookmakers who had set the betting line at 7 to 9 points, Nebraska. ■

Just Like a Vet

Schrad's relaxed nature and vast experience make it easy to forget she's a sophomore

By Todd Henrichs

Unbeaten and presumed unbeatable at home, the Nebraska volleyball team was suddenly in a fight for its NCAA Tournament life.

Anna Schrad should have been shaking in her sneakers. After all, the freshman from Lincoln was an emergency starter in the match against South Carolina last season. All she had to do was step in for ailing All-American Laura Pilakowski, the player who was Nebraska's biggest offensive threat throughout the season.

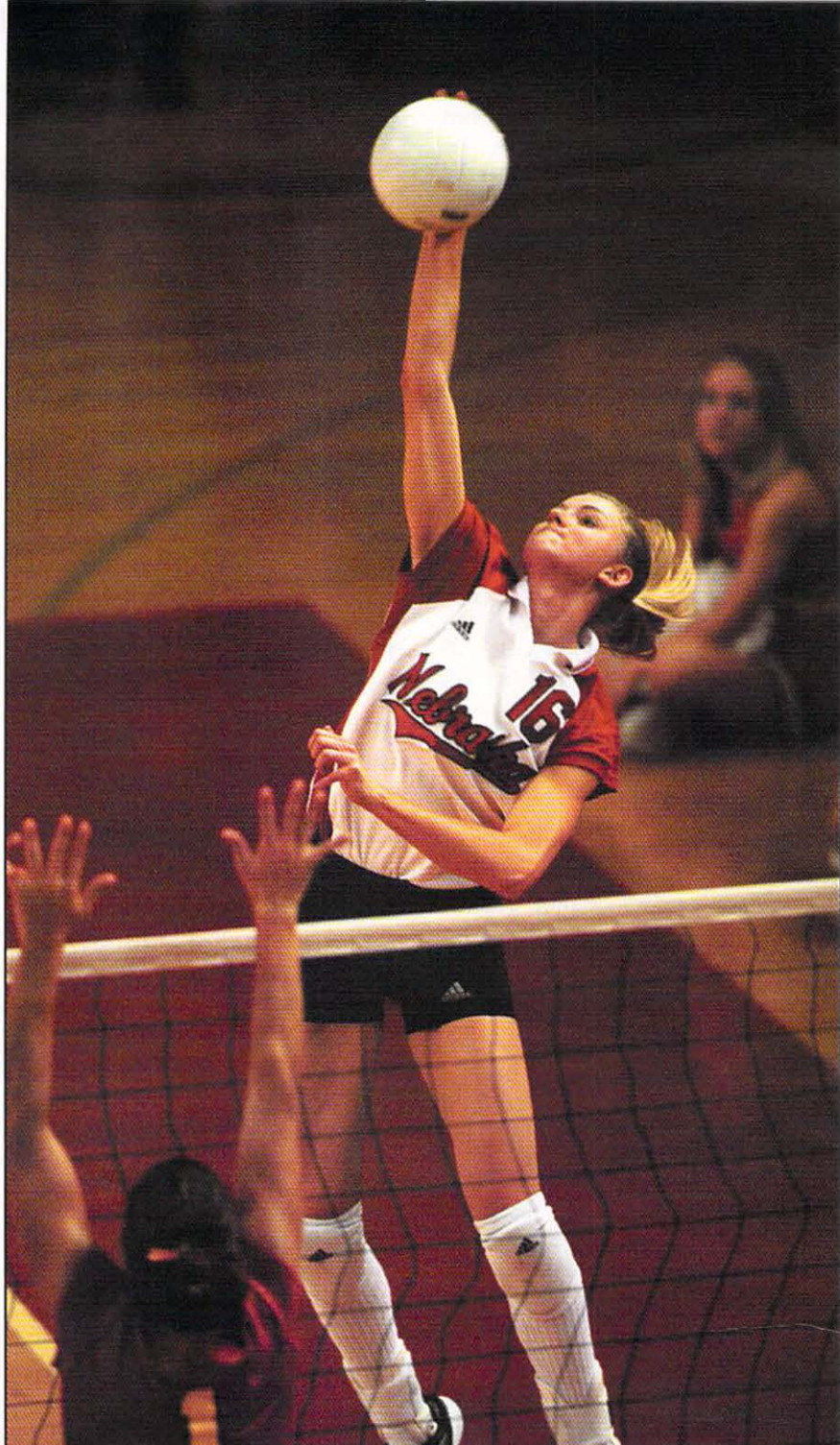
Schrad remembers the ebb and flow of the match, the noise of the Coliseum crowd and even the sigh of relief following Nebraska's come-from-behind win in five games.

The one thing she doesn't remember is being very nervous.

A 4.0 student in high school, Schrad is as even-keel as you get.

"I always expect myself to do well," she said. "It doesn't change, no matter what the situation is."

Schrad's relaxed nature and vast



Sophomore Anna Schrad, a graduate of Lincoln Pius X, is the only new starter for the second-ranked Huskers this season.

experience make it easy to forget she's just a 19-year-old sophomore filling a critical role for the second-ranked Huskers this season.

As Nebraska tries to repeat as national champ, Schrad is the only new starter for the Huskers. All around her are All-Americans and all-conference picks, players who are counting on Schrad to make sure there's no dip this season.

Not even Coach John Cook bothers

to downplay the significance of Schrad's role.

"To me, we pretty much play to the level of the position Anna plays," Cook said. "Anna needs to be able to do it all."

Schrad can be a tremendous weapon. She's an outstanding blocker — Cook says the finest he's seen at her age on the outside. Combined with Nebraska's other blockers, opponents have certainly found it difficult just

getting the ball past the net this year.

Schrad also has the confidence to dig balls, serve tough and pass, all areas viewed as critical to Nebraska's success going into the season. Senior Kim Behrends vacated Schrad's starting spot.

Subbing for both Behrends and Pilakowski last year, Schrad played in 69 games as a freshman, producing 132 kills and 114 digs for the Huskers. Before starting against South Carolina, Schrad made the start in the regular-season finale at Kansas State and produced a kill and block for two of the final three points in a five-game Nebraska victory.

She had five kills at the Final Four, including one versus Wisconsin in the championship match.

This year, her best match statistically came at nationally ranked Pacific in the season-opening State Farm Women's Volleyball Classic. Schrad equaled her career high with 15 kills on .303 hitting. She added 17 digs, also a season high.

Schrad was second on the team in service aces with 16 and third in digs following NU's first swing through the Big 12. A win against rival Texas pushed the Huskers' run of success in

conference play to 39 straight matches.

As Nebraska dominates, opponents say any difference between Schrad and her highly decorated teammates is less notable than before.

"She's not to that level yet, but she'll get there soon enough," said Texas Coach Jerrett Elliott after Schrad produced nine kills on 20 swings against the Longhorns. "It's all a matter of getting more experience."

Though the trip from Pius X High School to Nebraska was short, Schrad's globetrotting made her perhaps the most highly touted recruit ever to join the Huskers.

Her maturity stems partly from two stints playing with the U.S. Junior National Team. As a senior in high school, Schrad carried the title of captain and helped lead the Americans to a sixth-place finish at the 1999 World Championships.

Then this summer, Schrad played at a qualifying tournament for the World Championships in Mexico. Current Husker freshman Allyne Rebholz was Schrad's teammate.

"I've played with Anna for a few years, and I've seen her improve," Rebholz said, adding part of the rea-

son she came to Nebraska from Indianapolis was because of Schrad's early accomplishments.

Holding her arms outstretched, Rebholz said, "If she's gone from here to here and she's been here only a year, it makes me feel so much better."

Minus Nancy Metcalf last spring, Nebraska's strongest rotation was with Schrad, Amber Holmquist and setter Greichaly Cepero in the front row.

Schrad used the offseason to gain even more strength, training four days a week and increasing her vertical leap by two inches. In volleyball lingo, Schrad touches over 10 feet.

She's now what Cook calls "a trained athlete."

And "she's still just scratching the surface in that area," Cook said.

Schrad hit over .400 in three straight matches, a sign her offensive numbers were starting to flourish. Opponents already with too much to worry about have another obstacle in their path.

As for Schrad, she's more relaxed than ever.

"I don't think I feel pressure necessarily. I just want to be consistent," Schrad said. ■

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Busy Times

Huskers still among favorites for some of the nation's top recruiting targets

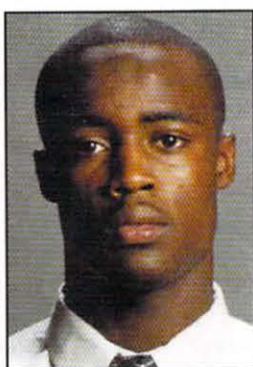
By Doug Horwich

With seven oral commitments on board heading into November and three months remaining until National Letter of Intent Day, the Husker staff enters the most strenuous part of the recruiting season.

The difficult task of preparing for a formidable stretch of opponents will have to be balanced with the process of recruiting and evaluating the players who will form the foundation of Husker teams 4-5 years down the road.

Nebraska has established itself as a major player in the recruiting wars on an annual basis under Coach Frank Solich, and this year is no exception. A substantial number of the most heavily recruited prospects in the nation currently list Nebraska among their favorites, and many of these players have already scheduled, or will soon schedule, official

JUCO Linebacker Commits



DeMorrio Williams

Nebraska's seventh commitment is outside linebacker DeMorrio Williams of Kilgore (Texas) College.

Williams, who is 6-foot-1 and 200 pounds and has been clocked at 4.6-seconds in the 40-yard dash, averages 10 tackles a game for Kilgore, which has established itself as one of the top 10 teams in the junior college ranks.

"He's one of the best we've had," Kilgore College Coach Jim Reeves said.

Williams is rated as a five-star selection after earning pre-season All-America honors from JC Gridwire.

visits to Lincoln.

Nebraska has also done an outstanding job of playing host to visiting recruits under Coach Solich, and Recruiting Coordinator Dave Gillespie deserves much of the credit for organizing the team's recruiting efforts and identifying prospects who are a good match for the Husker program.

One player whom the Huskers would love to sign in February is offensive tackle Heath Benedict (6-foot-6, 285, 5.0) from The Peddie School in Highstown, N.J. Benedict has more than 35 offers and is considered to be one of the top offensive tackle prospects in the country.

Nebraska is one of five very fortunate teams who will be getting a visit

from Benedict, and the Huskers will battle Florida State, Miami, South Carolina and Tennessee for his signature.

Despite living in New Jersey, Benedict is not fond of cold weather, which may put the Huskers slightly behind his other favorites.

"I really enjoyed their (Nebraska's) players," Benedict said. "They are really up there, but the only downfall is that it is real cold there, and I'm not used to that. Their weight program is unbelievable, and that's a running back's dream to go there and run behind the big boys they produce. They are known for producing their offensive linemen. My coach likes them a lot."

Although he has visited the Husker campus unofficially, Benedict plans to make an official visit during the team's bowl preparations in December. He has already made an official visit to Florida State and will visit South Carolina and Tennessee in November.

Great pass rushers are not easy to find, which is why coaches place such a premium on the rush end position in recruiting.

Nebraska Commitments for 2002

Player	Hometown (school)	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.
Curt Dukes	Newton (Newton-Conover), N.C.	6-2	210	QB
Matt Herian	Pierce, Neb.	6-5	225	TE
Mark LeFlore	Omaha (Central), Neb.	6-0	185	WR
Kurt Mann	Grand Island, Neb.	6-4 1/2	255	OL
Jay Moore	Elkhorn, Neb.	6-4 1/2	245	RE
Dane Todd	Lincoln (Southeast), Neb.	5-11 1/2	230	FB
DeMorrio Williams	Beckville, Texas (Kilgore College)	6-1	200	LB

One of the Huskers' top rush end prospects this year is Taurean Charles (6-3, 230, 4.55) from Northwestern High School in Miami, Fla. Nebraska is currently in line for a visit from Charles, who leads both Dade and Broward Counties in sacks.

"I have two visits set up already," Charles said. "I will visit North Carolina State on Dec. 14 and Rutgers on Jan. 18. I'm trying to set up visits to Oklahoma and Nebraska, too. I definitely want to see those two schools to see how I'd feel about living in that part of the country."

Despite his early focus on Rutgers and North Carolina State, Charles admits that he hasn't really had a chance to compare them against teams like Nebraska and Oklahoma.

"I'm pretty open-minded right now. I've had a chance to talk more with the coaches from North Carolina State and Rutgers in the spring, so I've probably bonded a little bit more with those guys," he said.

Nebraska will have to make up some ground on Charles, as he has substantial interest in both Rutgers and North Carolina State, but a visit to Lincoln could change his mind.

Although visits during the season are scarce at Nebraska, the Huskers did play host to one prospect during the Oct. 20th Homecoming weekend. Defensive tackle Kyle Williams (6-2, 280, 4.8) from Ruston High School in Ruston, La., made the trip to Lincoln to see the Huskers play Texas Tech.

In addition to having impressive speed and a 29-inch vertical jump, Williams is extremely strong, with a 640-pound squat and 360-pound bench press. Despite pressure from LSU and other traditional SEC powers, Williams has a great deal of admiration for the Husker program.

"If they're not No. 1 every year, then they are No. 2, 3 or 4," Williams said. "It's the best program in the country — the greatest program in the country. An off year for them is to be No. 7. Look at Florida State — Florida State is having an off year, and they're already out of it."

Williams is also an avid weightlifter and loves the Huskers' strength and conditioning program. He had LSU and Tennessee leading prior to his recent visit, but he has

Defensive Targets on Huskers' List

By Rick Shaw

Nebraska has been very successful over the past couple of years at recruiting talented athletes to play on the defensive side of the ball. Young players such as T.J. Hollowell, Le Kevin Smith, Manaia Brown, Barrett Ruud and Willie Amos should be key ingredients in, what promises to be a formidable defensive lineup for the next few seasons in Lincoln.

The Cornhuskers, however, aren't resting on the success of their past recruiting efforts. Nebraska is actively involved with some of the nation's most talented prep defensive football players. Here is a look at 10 defensive players who the Huskers hope to sign to letters of intent in February:

1. Haloti Ngata, defensive tackle (Salt Lake City, Utah): Ngata is one of the top recruiting targets for the Huskers at any position. Nebraska holds a slight lead for the 6-foot-5, 305-pound defensive tackle prospect, while Washington, UCLA, BYU and Oregon continue to give chase.

2. Mike D'Andrea, linebacker (Avon Lake, Ohio): D'Andrea may be one of the most physically gifted prep football prospects in the country in 2001. The home-state Buckeyes of Ohio State are the odds-on favorite to sign D'Andrea. However, Nebraska was the first to offer the 6-3, 230-pound superstar and will get an official visit. Michigan and Notre Dame are two other teams currently under consideration.

3. Buster Davis, linebacker (Daytona Beach, Fla.): The 5-11, 230-pound Davis says that he is leaning to playing his college football outside the state of Florida. Nebraska and Ohio State are his top two choices, with Florida State trying to play the role of spoiler.

4. Taurean Charles, defensive end (Miami, Fla.): The 6-3, 230-pound, pass rushing phenom out of Miami tallied 20 sacks in his first eight games of the 2001 campaign. Charles is planning to take his official visits to Nebraska, Rutgers, North Carolina State, Auburn, and Oklahoma.

5. Fabian Washington, cornerback (Bradenton, Fla.): Washington possesses a 4.39-second 40-yard dash time and excellent cover skills in the defensive backfield. The 6-0, 175-pound Washington is leaning toward playing his college football in Lincoln but is also considering offers from Michigan State, Auburn, and Alabama.

6. Kyle Williams, defensive tackle (Ruston, La.): Williams made his official visit to Lincoln during the weekend of Oct. 19, to watch the Huskers' win over Texas Tech. The 6-3, 290-pound Williams likes Nebraska, along with LSU, Tennessee, Auburn, and Florida.

7. Quinton McCoy, cornerback (Chandler, Ariz.): McCoy is a speedster from Arizona who loves Coach Ron Brown and the rest of the Nebraska staff. The 5-11, 175-pound McCoy plans to visit Nebraska in addition to visits to Michigan, Arizona State, Arizona and Washington.

8. Dedrick Harrington, safety/linebacker (Mexico, Mo.): This two-sport star is struggling with the decision whether to play basketball or football in college. If the 6-4, 225-pound standout decides on football, Nebraska, Notre Dame, Purdue, UCLA and Michigan are some of the schools under consideration.

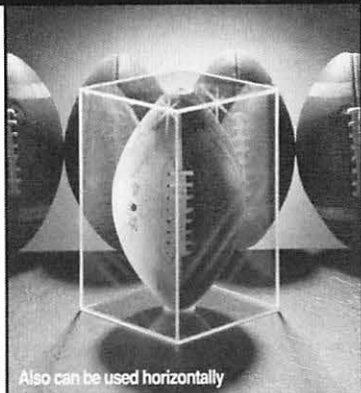
9. Willie Andrews, cornerback (Longview, Texas): The 5-10, 180-pound Andrews is considered one of the top cornerback prospects in the Lone Star State in 2001. Notre Dame, UCLA, and Nebraska are the early favorites in this race, with Baylor, Ohio State, Texas A&M and others giving chase.

10. Brandon Greeson, defensive tackle (High Point, N.C.): The 6-6, 315-pound run stopper is leaning to play his college football at Nebraska. However, Michigan and Virginia Tech will also get visits. ■

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already visited both schools. Auburn and Florida will likely get Williams' two remaining visits.

Two of the Huskers' top "speed athlete" targets are still trying to nail down their official visit lists.

Terry Richardson (6-1, 190, 4.5) from Centennial High School in Corona, Calif., is still wide-open and has placed recruiting on the back burner as he and his team work to make the playoffs.

"I haven't really narrowed it down to who I will visit yet," Richardson said. "USC, Fresno State, Washington, Arizona, Colorado and Nebraska are some of the schools that come to mind. I haven't ruled anybody out yet, though. I'm keeping an open mind as I go through my season. Right now, I'm not too concerned about my visits. I'm just trying to get my team back to the state championship."

Like most schools, Nebraska is recruiting Richardson as an "athlete," as he has roughly equal potential on both sides of the ball.

"I've been playing mostly wide receiver this year," Richardson said.

"Right now, I have 20 catches for 363 yards. I'm not sure on the number of touchdowns. Sometimes the coaches put me out at defensive back on defense if they really need a stop."

Although Nebraska has not yet secured a visit commitment from Richardson, the Huskers do appear to be in line for a visit from Quinton McCoy (5-11, 175, 4.5), a speedy cornerback/wide receiver prospect from Valley Christian High School in Chandler, Ariz.

"I will visit Nebraska, Michigan and most likely Georgia Tech," McCoy said. "I have not decided on the last two yet, but I will definitely do all five visits."

McCoy's family will be accompanying him on all five of his official visits, but his mother favors nearby Arizona State for obvious reasons.

Nebraska assistant coach Ron Brown has built a solid relationship with McCoy, but Nebraska's success in recruiting him will likely hinge on the Huskers' ability to make Quinton and his family feel comfortable with the thought of him attending an out-of-state school. ■

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Individual game tickets and hotel packages are available to all Husker games including the Big 12 Championship and The Rose Bowl which is hosting the National Championship game.

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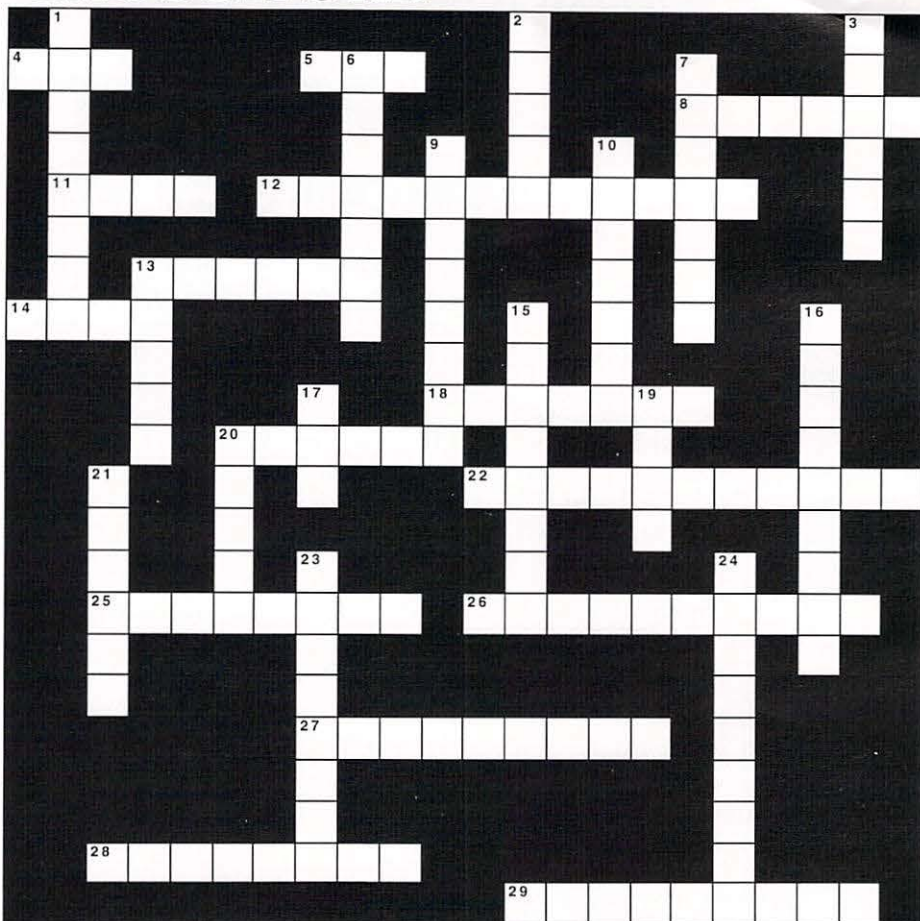
ACROSS

- 4 Head coach before Frank
- 5 Network for Nebraska-Colorado game
- 8 Big 12 title game location
- 11 NU true freshman linebacker
- 12 Eric Crouch's high school
- 13 Chris Kelsay's hometown
- 14 NU linebacker coach
- 18 NU defensive tackle from Canada
- 20 Leading receiver vs. Texas Tech
- 22 Dave Volk's hometown
- 25 NU I-back from Canada
- 26 NU's No. 89
- 27 Leading tackler vs. Texas Tech
- 28 Kansas campus location
- 29 NU kicker from Canada

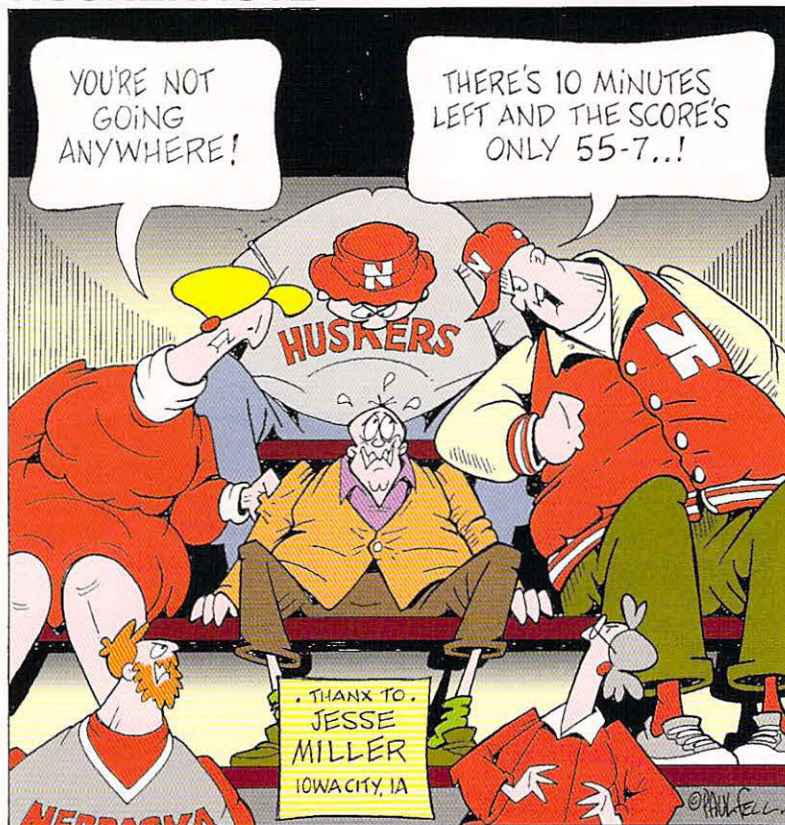
DOWN

- 1 Nov. 23 opponent
- 2 NU true freshman rover
- 3 Had 32 pancakes vs. Texas Tech
- 6 Scored first TD vs. Texas Tech
- 7 NU's No. 87
- 9 Kansas nickname
- 10 NU's No. 88
- 13 Kansas head coach
- 15 1994 national champion
- 16 NU split end from Kansas
- 17 Head coach before Tom
- 19 NU quarterback coach
- 20 NU's rating entering Oklahoma game
- 21 Kansas State head coach
- 23 NU rush end from Kansas
- 24 2002 opener opponent

Answers in Nov. 10 issue



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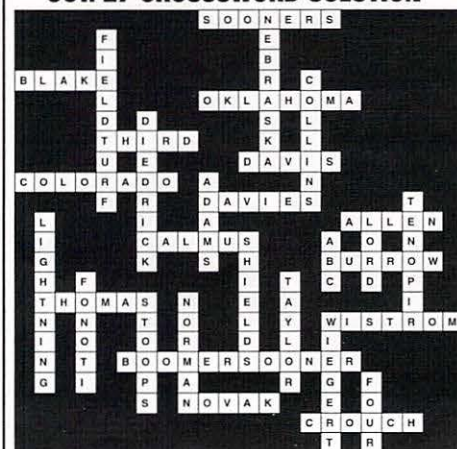
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OCT. 27 CROSSWORD SOLUTION



Playing Through Pain

Dislocated shoulder can't keep tackle Volk from being a part of NU-OU classic



**Mike
BABCOCK**

NEBRASKA'S 20-10 VICTORY against Oklahoma was a case of déjà vu for Cornhusker offensive tackle Dave Volk. "I played this game when I was 6-years-old, in the front yard," he said.

But, he added with a smile, "I was the quarterback then."

At age 6, he wasn't 6-foot-5 and 300 pounds. Besides, anything is possible in the imagination.

His smile belied the pain of his right shoulder, which had been dislocated the week before, during the third quarter of the Texas Tech game. The shoulder had been wrapped in ice.

Actually, he wasn't aware of the pain as he talked with reporters, he said, because "I'm still pretty jacked up from the game. I don't know how it feels right now. I'll know more on Monday."

Whether or not he would be able to play in the Cornhuskers' next game at Kansas, however, "we'll see," he said. "I'm pretty sure I'll go this week. This is my senior season."

That this is his final season also explained why he played the entire game against Oklahoma. A dislocated shoulder wasn't going to keep him on the sideline if he had any say in the matter.

And as it turned out, he did have a say, the final word in fact.

On the Monday following the Texas Tech game, "there was talk that maybe I wouldn't go," said Volk, a co-captain and three-year starter. "But after that it was pretty much touch-and-go and how it felt to me. Once I heard it was up to me and how I felt, I was pretty sure I was going to go."

He was prepared to tell the doctors what they needed to hear to clear him to play. He didn't practice until Thursday, and then without pads. "I did some hitting on dummies," he said.

"We had to test it out. I had to hit something before we came out today."

That was about the extent of his week's preparation.

When asked how the shoulder felt, he said all right.

"There was no way I was going to miss this game," he said.

He was fitted for a brace to hold the shoulder in place, but didn't take any painkillers except Tylenol, which he takes before every game. Once the game began, adrenaline helped mask the pain.

There were occasional twinges in the shoulder, but the brace probably caused him the most discomfort, he said. "You don't feel much when you're out there. I think that maybe early (in the game) I was a little bit tentative. But I think as we went on, for the most part, I did all right."

His presence alone would have provided an emotional

lift. The same was true of all the players who had been injured the previous week against Texas Tech. There was concern during the week that some of them wouldn't be able to play, but everyone did — though some only briefly.

Fullback Judd Davies started but couldn't go because of a severe ankle sprain.

Tight end Tracey Wistrom caught a pass despite a knee injury. Wide receiver John Gibson played with an ankle sprain, as did offensive tackle Dan Vili Waldrop and cornerback Keyuo Craver.

Craver intercepted a Jason White pass on Oklahoma's first play from scrimmage.

"In a game like this, you can't really worry about minor injuries," he said.

Such an attitude characterized Nebraska's determination in a game that matched the top two teams in the season's first Bowl Championship Series rankings — Oklahoma was No. 1, Nebraska No. 2.

The defending national champion Sooners came to Memorial Stadium with the nation's longest winning streak, 20 games. "This was huge, one of those classic match-ups," said Volk.

"This is one of those (games) that's going to be up on the HuskerVision (screens) in 20 years, when they play those great games of the past. It's just amazing to be a part of it."

As he talked with reporters, there were screams of joy outside the interview room.

Some of those piercing screams came from his mom, no doubt about it, Volk said. "That was Mom. I know because I've heard that for eight years, whenever something good happens."

Jane Volk didn't try to keep her son from playing because of the shoulder injury.

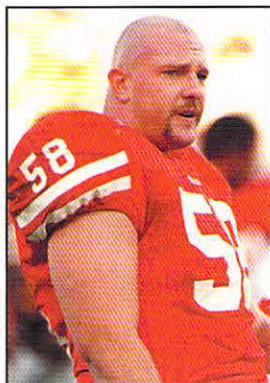
"She's a real big fan," he said with a laugh. "I'm surprised. She held herself together pretty good. She never let me see her cry, which was good, not even Saturday night, after it happened."

"She didn't seem too worried. She stayed pretty strong."

He also stayed strong, reflecting the pride of a native Nebraskan; he's from Battle Creek. However, "I don't know if I'm proud of it," he said of his willingness to play through the pain.

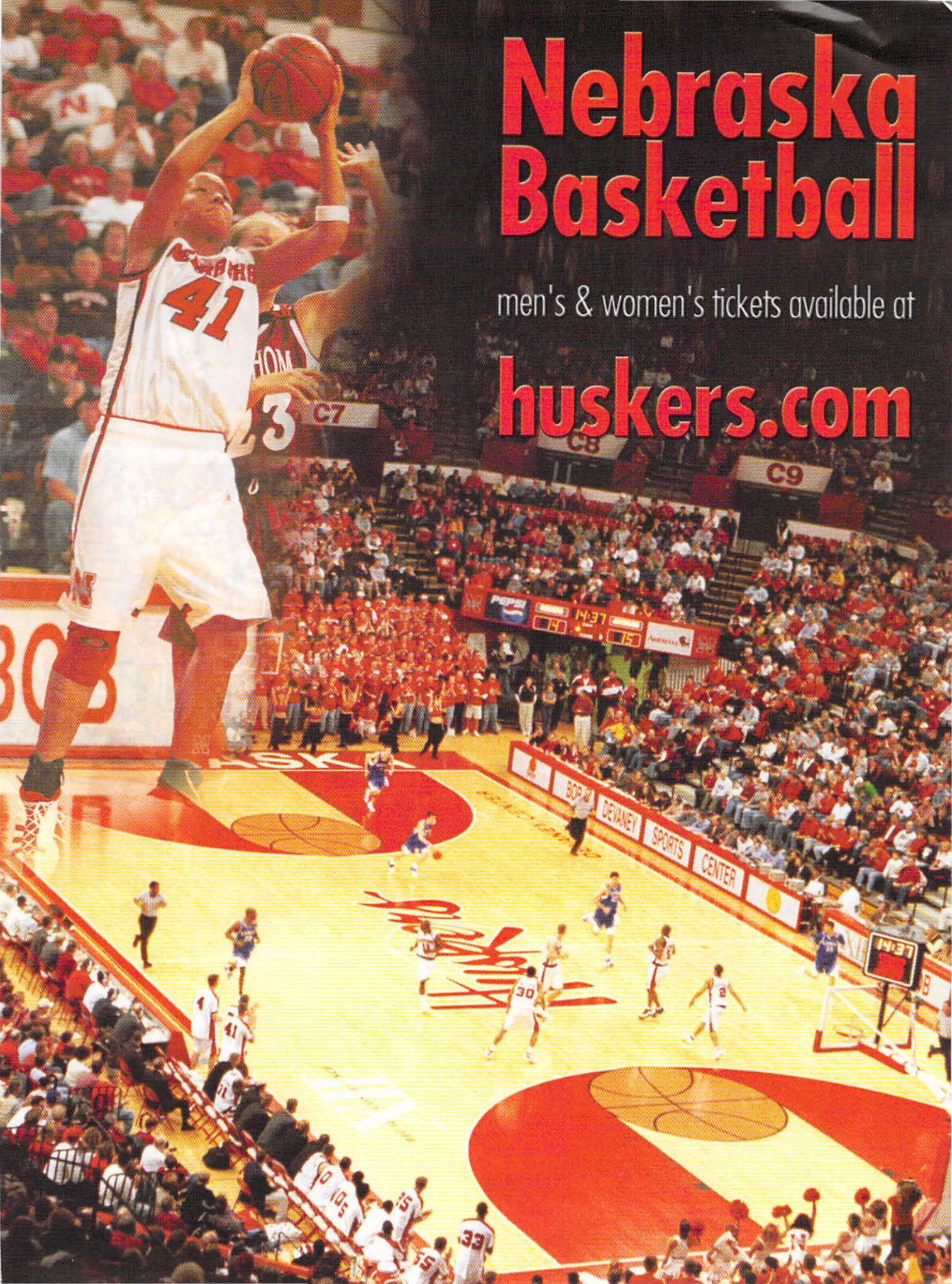
"It might have been for selfish reasons, but there was no way I was going to miss this game."

He had played it in his imagination years ago. This time it was for real. ■



Senior tackle Dave Volk has started 34 consecutive games.

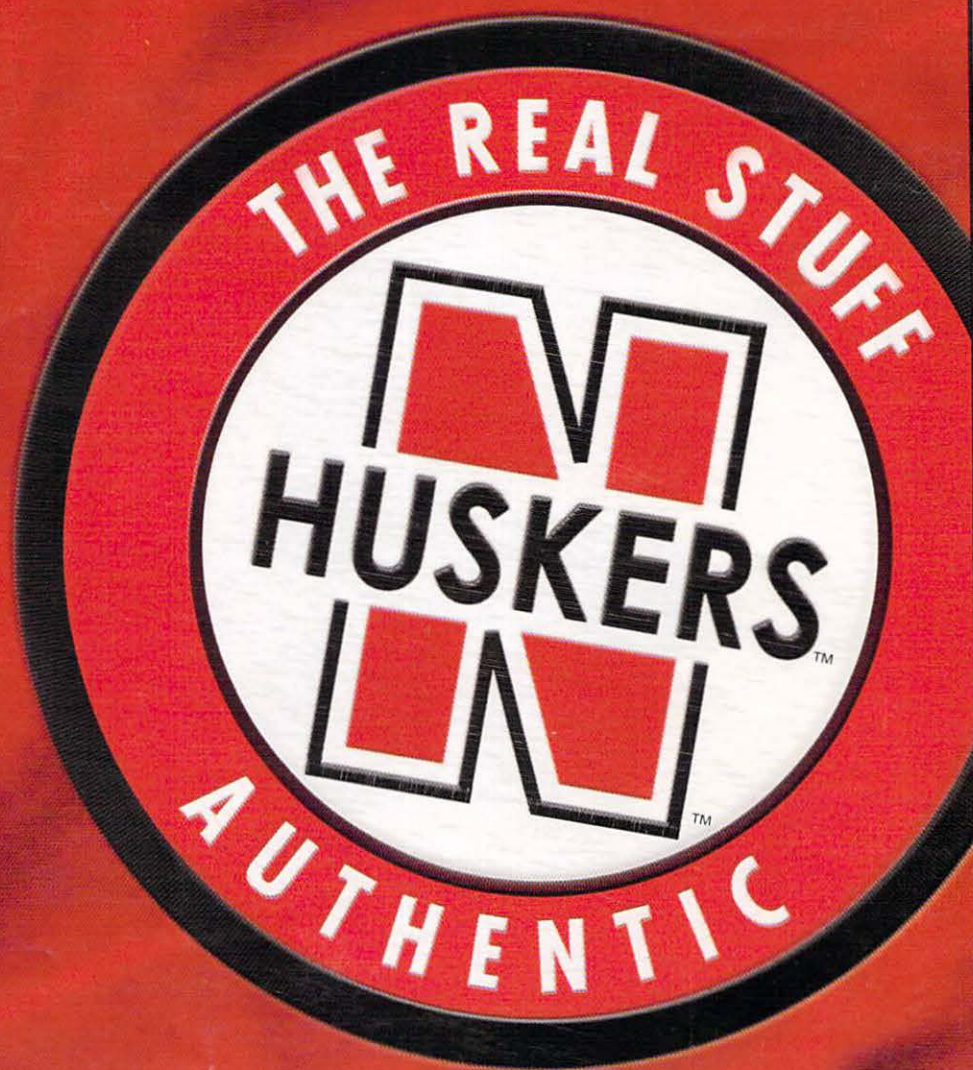
Mike Babcock is a former sports columnist for the Lincoln Journal Star. He has covered Nebraska football for more than 20 years. Mike can be reached at mdb@inetnebr.com or P.O. Box 6782, Lincoln, NE 68506.



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